



Lurgan Junior High School

Mobile Phone Policy

Personnel Responsible: Principal.
Approved by Board of Governors: June 2023.
Period & Date for Review:

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Rationale:

Lurgan Junior High School recognises that mobile phones are an important aspect of everyone's life and have considerable value particularly in relation to individual safety. The school accepts that there may be genuine reasons for their use travelling to and from school and, as such, **phones are allowed in school but must be switched off before entering the school grounds and remain switched off in an inside blazer pocket until the pupil leaves the school grounds at the end of their school day.**

Aims:

- To ensure that parents, pupils and staff are aware of the School Policy in relation to the use of mobile phones.
- To educate pupils in the responsible use of mobile phones.

Objective:

To ensure appropriate use of mobile phones by pupils.

Guidelines:

- **The school will not accept any responsibility for mobile phones brought into school or taken on trips by pupils.** We suggest that parents take out insurance cover if mobile phones are to be brought into school and that more expensive models are not used. Pupils should not bring other electronic devices into school.
- It is advisable to protect phones with security markings and codes.
- **Pupils are requested to switch off mobile phones before entering the school grounds and keep their phone in an inside blazer pocket at all times.** If a pupil's phone is used, seen or heard during the school day, it will be confiscated by a member of staff and lodged with the Main Office. On the first occasion, a pupil whose phone has been confiscated may report to the Main Office at the end of the school day to reclaim the phone. This will be communicated to the pupil's parent(s) via a message on SIMS Parent App.
- A record of this will be retained in the office. **On subsequent occasions, parents are requested to collect their child's mobile phone at the Main Office on Friday afternoon between 3.30pm and 4pm.**
- Pupils who have a real emergency can use the school phones to contact parents at any time with a teacher's permission.
- **If parents have an emergency and need to contact their son/daughter, then they should phone the school office (028 3832 3243) in the usual way and a message will be passed on.**

- Should there be a whole school emergency such as heavy snowfall which may cause early closing, pupils will be allowed to use mobile phones to rearrange their transport.
- If pupils leave the classroom to go to the toilet, they should leave their phone on the teacher's desk.
- We would request that pupils do not have mobile phones on their person or on their desks during examinations or tests.
- The school reserves the right to inspect a phone if the owner is suspected of disseminating inappropriate material e.g. bullying and offensive text messages or salacious images.

Cyber bullying is completely unacceptable. Pupils engaging in cyber bullying will have their phone confiscated; it will be returned to the parent/guardian. Lurgan Junior High School will, on such occasions, invoke their positive behaviour procedures.

One further use which gives cause for concern both in school and outside is as follows:

- **Devices which are internet compatible** raise child protection issues about exposure to corrupting materials. We would like to advise you that internet providers keep records of sites visited and a child could place him/herself in legal jeopardy if accessing some of the sites that are freely available. In the situation of a pupil or pupils being viewed as 'at risk' the school would be obliged to refer the matter to Social Services.

Parents are responsible for monitoring their child's mobile phone use. In incidents of inappropriate online behaviour which take place outside of the school day and are brought to the school's attention, parents will be informed and asked to address this with their child. Where these incidents negatively impact pupils in the school setting, this will be addressed through our Behaviour Policy.

Parents are also referred to the school's "Internet Safety Policy" and "Anti-Bullying Policy".

Evaluation:

To be monitored and reviewed regularly.

N.B. Staff are advised not to hold pupils' mobile phone numbers on their own personal mobile phone. There may be occasions when a teacher feels it is appropriate to have a pupil's mobile number i.e. to cancel a match due to weather conditions. Please ensure that parents are aware of this.