



Mobile Phone Policy

Introductory Statement

St. Peter's School recognises that mobile phones do have a positive aspect and can be helpful as a communication tool in emergencies. However, the misuse of mobile phones/personal media devices has a disruptive effect on classroom teaching and learning. There are also inherent dangers associated with the misuse of camera/picture phones. Staff and students must be protected from any invasion of privacy or harassment associated with the misuse of mobile phones.

This policy is drawn up in accordance with Circular 0044/2025, the Digital Strategy for Schools 2027, and its associated Implementation Plan.

Aims

- To improve the learning environment in schools by reducing distraction.
- To reduce the risk of cyberbullying and access to inappropriate content during school hours.
- To increase traditional social interactions between pupils and students at school break times.

Whole School Strategy

Students will be permitted to bring mobile phones/personal media players to school under the following conditions:

- Students may use phones/personal media devices at the following times: Prior to start of school up to 9.00a.m. and after 2.40p.m.

- Students are expected to hand their phones to staff when they enter the classroom at 9am. Phones will be returned at 2:40pm.
- Students are not permitted to bring mobile phones and other personal devices with them on school trips and tours.
- Exemptions only apply for medical reasons, or for reasons related to pupils' special educational needs. Permission granted for exceptions by the Board of Management.

Code of Behaviour

The misuse of a camera phone/electronic device will be considered a serious breach of discipline. The Management of St. Peter's School will respond appropriately in such cases and will have the full range of disciplinary sanctions open to them in line with the Code of Behaviour.

Parents/Guardians are **expected** to:

- Comply with this policy.
- Encourage responsible use of mobile phones with their children.
- Regularly monitor their children's activities online and the length of time he/she spends online for safety reasons.
- Attend annual Internet Safety Seminar. These seminars provide guidance on how to safely navigate the internet and how to use the internet safely and responsibly.
- Call the school at 012234048/0874091159 if they need to contact their child urgently.

Parents/Guardians of students who do not comply with this policy will be informed. Persistent use of a device against staff instruction may result in a suspension.

Resources for online safety tips

- Zeeko website www.zeeko.ie
- Cyber Safe Kids <https://www.cybersafekids.ie/>
- Coimisiún na Meán <https://www.cnam.ie/online-safety/>
- Webwise <https://www.webwise.ie/>

Guidelines and Procedures for Staff

- All staff should have their phones on them during the school day (in school and on school outings) in case of emergency.

- The Principal/Deputy Principal must have her/his mobile phone turned on at all times, so that they are available to all staff (in case of emergency) at all times.
- Staff personal calls and texts are confined to staff break times (but not while on yard duty). It is acknowledged that teachers and SNAs may need to be contactable by their family/their own children's school, etc. during the day. Staff personal calls on their mobile phones may be answered in cases of emergencies.

This policy has been drawn up by the principal in collaboration with the staff of St. Peter's and in consultation with the Board of Management. It will be made available to all members of the school community.

This policy will be reviewed annually and amended if necessary.

Rosemary Fahy

Principal St. Peter's School

Eoin Ó Donnagáin

Chairperson to the Board of Management

Signed:



Date: 26th November 2025

Signed:



Date: 26th November 2025