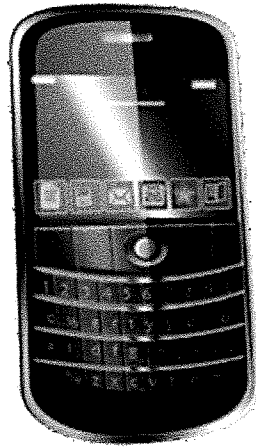



# Ardnashee School and College

## MOBILE PHONE POLICY



Signed:

  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Chair of Board of Governors)

Imelda Mallon (V.O) (Principal)

Date:

15/1/2015

## 1. CONTEXT

“Every school should have a clear policy on the use of Mobile Phones on its premises, and make it clear that any abuse – such as using these phones to bully and humiliate – will be dealt with severely” *Ed Balls, Minister for Education and Young People, Feb '07.*

*Ardnashee School and College* recognises that students regularly use electronic devices and that many parents wish their children to carry mobile phones to enhance their safety before and after school and on journeys to and from school. *Ardnashee School and College* aims to develop a culture of responsible use of mobile phones and other digital devices by pupils.

*Ardnashee School and College* further recognises that there are many benefits and learning opportunities to be gained from the use of technology such as mobile phones and other digital devices. However, the increasing technical sophistication of these telephones raises the following issues and challenges which the school management must address:

- 1.1 Research has shown that mobile telephones may impact on the health of young people;<sup>i</sup>
- 1.2 Mobile telephones represent a serious nuisance and form of disruption when they are left switched on in teaching areas or any other public forum within the school grounds;
- 1.3 Examination Boards have highlighted the security issues regarding mobile telephones and public examinations;<sup>ii</sup>
- 1.4 Research has shown that some students experience bullying through the use of text and picture messaging via mobile telephones;<sup>iii</sup>
- 1.5 Picture messaging is being used to send pornographic images via mobile telephones;<sup>iv</sup>
- 1.6 Picture telephones with built-in or attached digital cameras are being used to take pictures without the subject knowing and many of these photographs are appearing on so-called “Candid Camphone” websites. Such pictures can be digitally stored and manipulated as required.<sup>v</sup>

## **2. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT**

2.1 There are a number of aspects of the law that may apply to the misuse of mobile phones and other digital devices, and the response to that misuse. This will depend on the circumstances of individual cases. In the most serious cases there may be a crime involved – filming an assault, circulation of pornographic images of a child, copyright infringement or nuisance calls.

2.2 Offences may fall under Data Protection Legislation or Communication Act 2003

## **3. STUDENTS**

3.1 Students are advised that mobile telephones should not be brought to school and that the school is not liable for the theft, loss or damage of telephones or other similar property belonging to students

3.2 Parents should be aware if their child takes a mobile phone to school

3.3 The use of mobile telephones for any purpose within the school environment is prohibited between 9-00 a.m. and 3-30 p.m. during each school day

3.4 Students are responsible for ensuring that their mobile telephones are switched off

3.5 Students are prohibited from using in the school grounds any mobile telephone which is capable of taking, storing or sending still digital images and/or video clips. This includes any mobile telephone which can be attached to an imaging device

3.6 Students and parents are reminded that in cases of an emergency, the school office remains the appropriate point of contact

3.7 The recording, storing and/or transmission of digital images within the school grounds is strictly prohibited

3.8 Students must not bring mobile telephones into any formal or public examination, switching off a telephone will not be sufficient on such occasions. Such an

infringement of this regulation could mean disqualification from the current examination

- 3.9 Students engaged on out of school visits may carry their mobile telephones but must not use the phones to record images while in the care of the school
- 3.10 Failure to observe the above rules will result in the immediate confiscation of the mobile telephone by the teacher observing or detecting the breach of this rule
- 3.11 When a student has his telephone confiscated the teacher will bring the mobile phone to the main office where a member of the administrative staff will log the relevant details:
  - The name and class of the student using the phone
  - The time and place when the phone was being used
  - The purpose for which the phone was being used
- 3.12 The phone will be securely stored in the main office
- 3.13 The Principal will be informed of the incident by the administrative staff at his/her next break from class
- 3.14 Students must arrange for their parents/guardians to collect a confiscated telephone from the Main Office during normal working hours.
- 3.15 Where a parent/guardian is unable to call at the school to collect the telephone then other arrangements must be made, as the telephone will NOT be returned to the student. A parent/guardian may send a note to the Head of Student Learning to nominate another appropriate adult to collect the telephone.

#### **4. SANCTIONS**

- 4.1 Inappropriate use of mobile phones will be regarded as a breach of discipline and will invoke the School's Disciplinary Procedures

## **5. OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

### **Childnet International**

Childnet International is a children's charity committed to helping to make the Internet a safe place for children. They recently co-hosted a conference on Children, mobile telephones and the Internet with the Internet Association, Japan. A link to the full conference proceedings is available from their website: <http://www.childnet-int.org/>

### **FKBKO**

For Kids By Kids Online (FKBKO) exists to make the Internet a better and safer place for children and young people. The website includes a section on mobile telephones which outlines all the ways in which you can use the technology, in addition to general safety advice.

<http://www.fkbko.co.uk/>

### **ICSTIS**

ICSTIS, the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services, is the industry-funded regulatory body for all premium rate charged telephone services. <http://www.icstis.org.uk/>

### **NCH IT OK**

NCH is one of the UK's leading children's charities, and is a member of the Children's Charities' Coalition for Internet Safety (CHIS). The NCH IT OK website promotes safe and equal Internet access for young people. The website is also developing information on 3G services.

<http://www.nch.org.uk/itok/>

**Parent/Guardian Permission**

I have read and understand the above information about the appropriate use of mobile phones at school and I understand that this form will be kept on file at the school and that the details may be used to assist in identifying a phone should the need arise (e.g. theft of the phone or if the phone is being used inappropriately).

I give my child permission to carry a mobile phone to school and understand that my child will be responsible for ensuring that the mobile phone is used appropriately and in accordance with school policy, as outlined in this document.

Parent Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Footnotes:

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<sup>i</sup> Department of Health – <http://www.publications.doh.gov.uk/mobilephones/mobilephones.htm>;  
Report of Stewart Group – [www.iegmp.org.uk](http://www.iegmp.org.uk);  
World Health Organisation – [www.who.int](http://www.who.int);  
National Radiological Protection Board – [www.nrpb.org.uk](http://www.nrpb.org.uk)

<sup>ii</sup> CCEA – [www.ccea.org.uk](http://www.ccea.org.uk)

<sup>iii</sup> WELB Policy on Bullying – [www.welb.org.uk](http://www.welb.org.uk);  
Bullying Online - [www.bullying.co.uk/children/mobile\\_phone.htm](http://www.bullying.co.uk/children/mobile_phone.htm);  
Department of Education - <http://safety.ngfl.gov.uk/schools/document.php3?D=d70>

<sup>iv</sup> Irish Examiner - <http://archives.tcm.ie/irishexaminer/2004/01/12/story831520858.asp>;

<sup>v</sup> Irish Examiner - <http://archives.tcm.ie/irishexaminer/2004/02/17/story623100869.asp>