




Student Mobile Phone Policy

While Loreto Balbriggan accepts that it is a student's right to have a mobile phone, the following policy aims to maintain a safe, nurturing environment where the personal dignity and rights of all the members of the school community are preserved.

- In order to assist the school in implementing this policy, parents/guardians are asked not to contact students by mobile at any time during the school day. Contact with the school may be made through the office at 01-8411594 and students are directed to use the school telephone if needed.
- Where a student brings a mobile to school, the phone must be switched off (unheard and unseen) during the school day from 9.10-4.00 p.m. and may not be used for any purpose on the school premises unless otherwise directed by a teacher.
- Students found in contravention of the above will have their phone and sim card confiscated until the end of the next school day. The phone will be returned on submission of a signed parental acknowledgement. On the second and every subsequent occasion the phone and the sim card will be confiscated until the end of the school day and a detention will apply
- When a student's phone is confiscated the parent/guardian will be contacted before the end of the school day to notify them that their daughter has had her phone confiscated.
- No photographs may be taken or recordings (video or audio) made with mobile phones. Using phones in such a way can seriously infringe on people's rights.
- The school reserves the right to view the contents of the confiscated mobile phone, in the presence of the pupil, to ensure it contains no images or information which might compromise any member of the school community. Any photographs or recordings taken in the school building, on the school grounds or during any school activity, in or outside the school may be removed before the phone is returned.
- Students participating in school related activities (e.g. study, extra curricular activities, school trips, tours and all school events) must abide by the mobile phone rules governing these activities. On these occasions students are permitted to take suitable photographs and recordings, with permission, however students AND VISITORS should be of ethically and morally mindful of posting on social media and keeping in-line with privacy laws.
- Incidents where students use mobile phones to bully other students will be treated as serious breaches of discipline. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, the school will consider it appropriate to involve the Gardai in such incidents.
- The school accepts no responsibility for loss, theft or damage to mobile phones on the premises. The safety and security of mobile phones is wholly a matter for students/parents.
- It is strongly advised that students use passwords to ensure that unauthorised phone call or texts cannot be made on their phones.
- Failure to hand over a mobile phone when requested will result in a suspension.

The definition of “misuse” is at principal’s discretion.

Please note that this policy is subject to ongoing review - the most recent policy is available on the school’s website.

Signed:  Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed:  Principal/Secretary, Board of Management

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 22nd September 2018