

Useful Websites

Text Bullying

www.bullyonline.org
www.stoptextbully.com
www.childline.org.uk
www.nch.org.uk

Internet Safety

www.thinkuknow.co.uk
www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com
www.getsafeonline.org
www.chatdanger.com
www.websafecrackerz.com

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Abbey Community College



Mobile Phone Policy

2016–2017



This policy has been formulated after consultation with the students and staff of the College.

Rationale

Abbey Community College recognises mobile phones as being an integral part of youth culture. However the duty of care for each and every child in the school is paramount and this policy will attempt to weigh the balance between child protection and safe use of mobile phones in the school.

Purpose

- To inform staff, students and parents about safe mobile phone use in school.
- To highlight the child protection and safeguarding issues of using camera phone technology in the school.
- To raise awareness of mobile phones and external examination policy.
- To eliminate the possible use of text messaging in school as a form of bullying.
- To determine exactly when mobile phone use is permitted in the school.
- Offer safety guidelines to the students on general mobile phone use.
- To outline the consequences of not adhering to our mobile phone policy.

Definitions

Camera phone: A mobile phone or device which can record still and/or moving images and /or audio recordings.

Text bullying: the use of SMS text, picture or video clip to harass or bully another student either directly to their phone or spread to other phones or internet.

Bluetooth/Infra-red: proximity transfer of information between phones using wireless or infra-red technology.

Smart watches with camera features

Mobile phone use in school

- Students are permitted to carry mobile phones into school, in their bags or internal blazer pockets.
- Abbey Community College does not accept responsibility for damage to, nor loss of, a mobile phone regardless of the circumstances.
- Mobile phones can only be used to make and receive calls up to 8:45am during break time and at lunch time.
- They must not be used in class or in corridors between lessons.
- Under no circumstances is any student permitted to take a photo/video/sound recording on the school premises. Students who do this may be the subject of a disciplinary enquiry.
- Any student found to be up-loading recordings to the Internet depicting the College brand, or involving staff or children in school uniform, will be the subject of a disciplinary enquiry. The College reserves the right to suspend or expel a student for this action.
- The use of mobile phones is strictly prohibited in the examination hall. This means they should be switched off and handed to the invigilator. According to exam regulations, if students are found with mobile phones they run the risk of being disqualified from public examinations.

Safe use of mobile phones

- Only give your number to close friends and family you can trust.
- Report to a member of staff if someone has taken a picture/video/sound recording of you in school.
- Use the secure PIN code setting

- Report to a trusted adult if you receive any text message which is offensive to you. It is best you do not delete this text until you have shown it to an adult.

Advice to parents

Please avoid communicating with your child on their mobile phones during the day. If there is an emergency situation where you must contact your child at any time, please phone the school office (028 9086 7431) and we will contact your child immediately.

Guidelines on adherence to this policy

- Students who use their mobile phones inappropriately in class will firstly be given a warning and asked to put it away. If a student continues to use their phone inappropriately in class he/she will have it confiscated until the end of the day. Staff should bring this phone to the General Office in an envelope with the student's name and class and the date written on it.
- If this is refused a teacher will make a referral directly to the Head of Year.
- Where a student uses their phone inappropriately, i.e. taking photos, videos, etc. report it directly to the relevant Head of School or Deputy Principal. The phone will be held and a letter issued to their Parent/Guardian. The phone will be returned to the Parent/Guardian at an arranged interview.
- Serious inappropriate use of mobile phones may result in the involvement of the PSNI or Social Services.

