



## **Bellerive FCJ Catholic College**

### **MOBILE PHONE POLICY FOR PUPILS IN YEARS 7 TO 11 AND THEIR PARENTS**

*This policy will be implemented in a way which honours the vision that every FCJ school is a community of persons - students, staff, governors - bound together in mutual respect and ready to rely on each other in fulfilling their privileged task as educators in a Catholic school.*

#### **Bellerive FCJ Catholic College Mission Statement:**

- To help everyone within a caring community to grow in faith
- To respect and value other cultures and faiths
- To make the most of every given ability
- To enjoy and achieve personal growth and academic excellence
- To prepare pupils for their adult life, playing a full part in a modern global society

#### **History of Document**

| <b>Issue No.</b> | <b>Author/ Owner</b> | <b>Date Written</b> | <b>To Governors</b> | <b>Date Approved</b> | <b>Comments/Signature</b> |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1                | P Taylor             | 11/2017             | 11/2017             | 02/11/2017           |                           |
| 2                | P Taylor             | 06/2019             | 07/2019             | 04/07/2019           |                           |
| 3                | P McMenamin          | 03/2023             | 03/2023             | 03/2023              |                           |

Parents/Carers should read this policy carefully with their child and if they do not feel that they can support the school in any aspect of this policy they should ensure that their daughter does not bring a mobile phone into school.

- Students are allowed their mobile phones with them in school so that they can remain safe/contact home on their journey to and from school.
- Before a pupil enters school premises, including the school playgrounds, her mobile phone should be switched off (not put on to silent/vibrate) and put in her bag (not a pocket in a coat or blazer). Pupils will not be allowed to use their mobile phones while waiting for a school bus on school grounds at 3.20 unless given express permission by the staff on duty in the event of a bus delay.
- The DFE (Department for Education) Feb 2024 state: *"Schools can use a range of sanctions for breaching the mobile phone policy appropriate to their context, including confiscation and detentions."*

To this end, any mobile phones seen out/being used in school then the following sanctions will be applied:

M1 (First offence) Phone will immediately confiscated and taken to the office. Parents will be informed and they will have to collect the phone by 4pm the same day or when they are able to collect (but no later than 4pm) and a one hour detention issued.

M2 (Second offence) Phone will immediately confiscated and taken to the office. Phone to be collected by parent, 1 hour detention issued and 5 days of handing the phone into the office – Meeting with HoY to take place.

M3 (Third offence) Phone will immediately confiscated and taken to the office. Phone to be collected by parent, SLT detention issued and 10 days of handing the phone in to the office – Meeting with SLT to take place.

M4 (Fourth offence) Phone will immediately confiscated and taken to the office. Phone to be collected by parent, 2 x SLT detentions issued and 10 days of handing the phone in to the office – Further SLT/Headteacher meeting.

Additional breaches of the mobile phones policy could result in escalated sanctions that will be decided upon should the situation dictate. However, these are not limited to; Withdrawal from lessons and social time, Increased number of SLT detentions, Suspensions, Offsite Direction to another school, Governors disciplinary panel or in persistent cases permanent exclusion.

- Please note that staff may be unavailable and so this may cause a delay in the phone being returned. A detention will be issued after each confiscation commensurate with the number of times the phone will have been confiscated.
- Confiscations after this will be viewed as defiance of school rules and will be dealt with by our usual sanctions (as laid out in our Behaviour Management Policy). Please note that when counting up confiscations they will "roll-over" from one academic year to another.

- If a parent needs to contact their daughter during school hours, please contact the school office rather than directly to your daughter's mobile phone. If a pupil is found responding to a text/call from home during school hours, the phone will be confiscated and the procedure detailed above set in motion. Similarly if a pupil wishes to contact home during school hours (including if they feel unwell) they should not use their mobile phone – they should seek permission from their Head of Year to use a school phone. If the Head of Year decides that contacting home is not appropriate, a pupil must accept this and not use their mobile phone to then contact home. Failure to follow this rule will be viewed as defiance of school rules and will be dealt with by our usual sanctions (as laid out in our Behaviour Management Policy).
- Often mobile phones are used to “cyber-bully”. With this in mind the use of mobile phones to take photographs in school, in the immediate vicinity of school or on school buses is strictly forbidden. Failure to follow this rule will be viewed as defiance of school rules and will be dealt with by our usual sanctions (as laid out in our Behaviour Management Policy). Taking images of other students and sharing these without their consent is likely to result in a suspension from school.
- The recording of meetings and subsequently shared electronically by parents without the permission of staff or a school representative is illegal and will be addressed in the appropriate way. We greatly value the communication and interactions we have with our parents and the open manner in which we conduct our meetings. If there is a concern ahead of any meetings with our staff, we request you make us aware this ahead of the meeting so we can ensure you feel fully supported.
- The use of mobile phones to update/post to social media in school or on school buses is strictly forbidden. Failure to follow this rule will be viewed as defiance of school rules and will be dealt with by our usual sanctions (as laid out in our Behaviour Management Policy). This may include a period of suspension from school.
- Mobile phones must not be used in classes to access the internet to help with work (for example, accessing Google to research a topic), to access the calculator function found on smart phones, film experiments, photograph notes on boards etc.
- Parents/carers accept that by sending their daughter into school with a mobile phone that the school accepts no liability for the loss or damage of these items.
- The school ban on other electronic devices such as iPads (or similar tablet devices), iPods, digital cameras, smart watches etc remains in place.