

## Mobile Phone Policy 2019

Newpark Comprehensive School's mobile phone usage policy accepts that the use of technology and electronic equipment including mobile phones is increasingly part of modern everyday life. We are aware that mobile phones can enhance learning and can be used to positive effect. We are also conscious of the negative impact that excessive access to mobile phones may have on student wellbeing and the potential damage mobile phones may contribute to normal social interaction. At the moment we educate students on the impact of mobile phone use through various educational programmes in the school. Newpark aims to maintain a safe and nurturing learning environment where the personal dignity and rights of all the members of the school community are preserved.

In Newpark, we are conscious that technology in general, including mobile phones, continues to evolve. Our policy will also continue to evolve.

In order to assist the school in implementing the mobile phone usage policy, parents/guardians are asked not to arrange to contact students during class time. Contact with the school may be made through the school office at 01 2883724 in the event of an emergency.

Students who feel unwell should alert the school nurse who will contact home if deemed necessary.

We will continue to consult and research the impact of this policy in the interim.

### Mobile Phone usage policy in Newpark Comprehensive School:

1. Phones may be used before school, during small break and lunch.
2. Teachers may encourage the appropriate use of mobile phones in pursuit of learning, in classrooms and other learning settings within the school.

### Restrictions on the Use of Mobile Phones:

1. Phones/earphones must be in school bags and switched off during class times, unless used for educational purposes, as directed by teachers. If a phone goes off in class, then the phone will be confiscated. If a student is using a phone without permission in class, for any reason, the phone will be confiscated.
2. When a phone is confiscated, this will be entered in VShare as a Behavioural MD by the teacher. The teacher may also add a sanction. The phone will be placed at the top of the room for the duration of the class. **Retrieving the phone at the end of class is the responsibility of the student.**
3. Before leaving a class and while moving between classes, mobile phones and earphones must be in students' bags and switched off.
4. Mobile phone use is prohibited in the Sports Complex at all times. Phones must be stored in a safe place unless use is requested by the teacher for educational purposes.
5. No photographs or recordings (either video or audio) can be made with a phone on the school premises without the school's permission.

6. No recording of any person is permissible. Using the mobile phone in such a way seriously infringes on people's privacy and rights under GDPR.
7. For incidents where students use a mobile phone to bully others by sending or resending offensive messages or calls, please see Newpark's anti-bullying policy. It is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass, or to send on offensive material about another person.
8. Mobile phones are the responsibility of the individual and the school will accept no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged items.

The policy review team (2019) recommend annual review of this policy.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management, Newpark Comprehensive School at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019.