

Mobile Phone Policy

Newpark Comprehensive School 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. Newpark's mobile phone usage policy accepts that the use of technology and electronic equipment including mobile phones is increasingly part of modern everyday life. The School is conscious of the negative impact that mobile phone use may have on wellbeing and learning within the School. We endeavour to help students to be present, attentive, and engaged. Students are not required to bring mobile phones to school. The School also teaches students on the impact of mobile phone use through various programmes in its curriculum.

In Newpark, we are conscious that technology in general, including mobile phones, continues to evolve. Our policies will therefore also continue to evolve accordingly. We will continue to consult and research the impact of mobile phone use on members of the School community.

In order to assist the School in implementing the mobile phone usage policy, parents/guardians should not contact students during class time. In the event of an emergency, contact the School Office at 01 2883724. Students who feel unwell should alert the School Nurse, who will contact home, as necessary.

The following regulations apply in relation to mobile phone usage in school:

1. Phone use is permitted before and after school and during break/lunch times.
2. All classrooms in the school are phone-free zones.
3. Phones must be powered off and phones/earphones must be in school bags during class and along the corridors between classes.
4. The use of smart watches for communication purposes is not permitted during class or between classes.
5. No photographs, video recordings or audio recordings can be made with a phone on campus, or off campus while on school activities, without the School's permission. Using a mobile phone in such a way infringes on others' right to privacy.
6. For incidents where students use a mobile phone to bully others by sending or resending offensive messages or calls, please see the School's *Anti-Bullying Policy*. It is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass, or to distribute offensive material about another person.
7. Phone use is not permitted in the Sports Complex.
8. Mobile phones are the responsibility of the individual. The School accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged items.
9. If a phone goes off in class, or if a student is using a phone in class, irrespective of reason, the teacher will instruct that the phone is switched off and put in the student's bag. A *Mobile Phone Usage* MD will be entered on VSware by the teacher. A student not complying with this instruction will be referred to a Deputy Principal. Students receiving three or more *Mobile Phone Usage* MDs will be followed up by the form teacher and/or year leader. Parents/guardians will be contacted and an appropriate sanction, in line with the School's *Relationships and Behaviour Policy*, implemented. It is expected that parents/guardians support the school in *Mobile Phone Usage* adherence.

This policy was reviewed in the 2022/2023 academic year and will be reviewed again as required going forward, in line with changing information, guidelines, legislation and/or feedback from school stakeholders.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management, Newpark Comprehensive School at its meeting on 8th March 2023.