



## Mobile Phone/Similar Device Use Policy

### MISSION STATEMENT

*St. Louis High School is a dynamic centre of learning where we foster a happy and secure environment. We nurture creativity and embrace diversity while building on our rich traditions in an atmosphere of generosity. We share in the journey towards deeper understanding in this complex world.*

**Standards of Mobile Phone/Similar Device Usage behaviour that shall be observed by students attending St Louis High School.**

**Students shall show respect for themselves and for all members of the school community whilst using mobile phones or similar devices.**

As a school community we aim to create a positive learning environment.

The purpose of this Mobile Phone/Similar Device Use Policy is:

- To make school safe for all
- To ensure effective teaching and learning
- To facilitate academic success for students
- To allow for the holistic development of students
- To foster an atmosphere of mutual respect
- To nurture and support the wellbeing of all members of the school community
- To afford students the space to develop essential interpersonal skills

## Code of Mobile Phone/Similar Device Usage Behaviour – Rewards

- Enjoy good relationships
- Feel safe and secure
- Achieve academic success
- Develop an ability to use mobile phones/electronic devices in a responsible and discerning manner

## Code of Mobile Phone/Similar Device Usage Behaviour

1. Mobile phones or similar devices must be switched off and out of sight (in the locker or school bag and not on one's person) while on the school premises or on school excursions/activities (eg: swimming pool, school trips etc.)
2. Mobile phones or similar devices must be kept in lockers or school bags whilst in school and not kept on a student's person – eg. in a jacket, shirt, skirt or tracksuit pockets.
3. The use of such devices is only allowed with the express permission of a subject teacher within class for the purposes of supporting teaching and learning.
4. No photographs or recordings (video and/or audio) can be taken of any individual, teacher's work on a whiteboard or displayed school posters, notes or notices eg (exam timetables) without their express permission.
5. Instances where students use mobile phones/similar devices to bully or intimidate fellow students/staff or send/post offensive messages or make calls will not be tolerated. These will be investigated under the Code of Behaviour and Anti-bullying policies and appropriate sanctions will be imposed.

## **Good Mobile Phone/Similar Device Usage Behaviour is essential for a healthy and safe learning environment in which each student may develop her full potential.**

- *Any mobile phone/similar device usage behaviour that disrupts a positive learning environment is unacceptable.*
- *Students will not be allowed to leave class to retrieve their phones from their lockers.*
- *Teachers will indicate in advance, where possible, if phones will be required for class.*
- *Students must exercise self-control and be considerate to all, at all times.*
- *Co-operation between home and school is an essential element to the full development of a student.*

## SANCTIONS

The purpose of a sanction is to bring about a change in behaviour by:

- Helping students to learn that their inappropriate mobile phone usage behaviour is unacceptable
- Helping them to recognise the effect of their actions on others.
- Helping students, in ways appropriate to their age and development, to understand that they have choices about their own mobile phone/similar device usage behaviour and that all choices have consequences.
- Helping them to learn to take responsibility for their mobile phone/similar device usage behaviour.
- Helping to reinforce the boundaries set out in this code of mobile phone/similar device usage behaviour.
- Signalling to other students and to staff that their wellbeing is being protected.
- Preventing serious disruption of teaching and learning.
- Keeping the student, other students or adults safe.

### Specific Sanctions:

1. If students use mobile phones or similar devices at unauthorised times, they will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day by the school Principal/Deputy Principal and will incur a straight detention which will be organised by the Year Head. A letter informing parents/guardians of the sanction will be issued and will require a signed acknowledgement of receipt of same.
2. A second breach of this rule will result in an internal suspension. Please note that repeated misuse of mobile phones or similar devices at unauthorised times will lead to external suspension.
3. Instances where students use mobile phones or similar devices to bully or intimidate fellow students/staff or send/post offensive messages or make calls will not be tolerated. These will be investigated under the Code of Behaviour and Anti-bullying policies and appropriate sanctions will be imposed in consultation with school management.

Any imposed sanctions will be imposed in consultation with school management and parent/guardians.

Please note that the school is not responsible for the loss or damage to mobile phones.

We strongly recommend that all phones should have a strong protective cover.

This policy was approved by the Board of management on:

Date: 19-06-2019

Signed: Maura Mooney - M Mooney

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Cliona McDonough - C McDonough

Principal