

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

From the academic year **2013/14** pupils will not be permitted to use a Mobile Phone on the school campus during school hours.*:

Rationale:

For a number of years the school management permitted pupils to bring a Mobile Phone to school. This was specifically within the terms of the Mobile Phone policy which outlined the terms and conditions of use, including the requirement that phones be switched off during class time and only used during morning break and lunchtime. Responsible behaviour was encouraged and the rights of all to go about their business without disruption or distress was emphasised.

We acknowledge that many pupils co-operated with this requirement but unfortunately the management of Mobile Phones has now become impossible.

Due to the disruption caused to teaching and learning, interruption to classes, unapproved recording of pupils and staff, disruption to the administration of the school, and the proliferation of inappropriate messages and images which have caused anxiety and distress to pupils, parents and staff, the Board of Management has decided to enforce a complete ban on the use of Mobile Phones for pupils on the school campus during school hours – (9.00a.m- 4.00p.m. Mon, Tue. 9.00a.m.-3.20p.m Wed, Thurs, Fri.) The school campus will offer a respite from the constant general distraction caused by mobile phones and more importantly the distraction caused to teaching and learning. * NB Note on Sexting:

Policy:

It is a condition of enrolment at Carndonagh Community School that a pupil **must not use** a Mobile Phone on the school campus during school hours.

Enforcement:

Any pupil found in visible possession of a Mobile Phone on the campus during school hours will be asked to surrender the phone. It is immaterial whether the phone is switched on or off.

THE PARENT / GUARDIAN WILL BE INFORMED IF A PHONE IS CONFISCATED AND ADVISED OF THE SCHOOL MOBILE PHONE POLICY. THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT WILL HAVE DISCRETION TO RETURN A PHONE. THE PHONE MAY BE KEPT FOR UP TO ONE WEEK.

FOR A SECOND OFFENCE THE PHONE WILL ONLY BE RETURNED TO A PARENT / GUARDIAN WHEN THE PARENT / GUARDIAN CONFIRMS IN WRITING TO THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT *THAT* THE PHONE WILL NOT BE BROUGHT BACK TO SCHOOL. THE PARENT / GUARDIAN MUST MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS THE RETURN OF THE PHONE AND PRESENT THE LETTER FOR THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT. THIS APPOINTMENT WILL NOT BE ON THE DAY THAT A PHONE IS CONFISCATED AND WILL BE AT THE CONVENIENCE OF THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT.

Refusal to hand over a phone will be regarded as further disruption and the parent/guardian will be contacted to come and take the pupil home.

- **A pupil must ask for permission from the school management to make or receive an important message or call.**
- **Parents / Guardians should ensure that they contact the school if a message has to be given to a pupil.**
- **The Rules on the use of Digital Entertainment equipment and the recording of images remain in force.**

Use of Mobile Phone by Staff:

The Teaching staff are advised that Mobile Phones are not to be used in class unless expressly for school purposes or for emergency use.

'SEXTING'

Sexting is the sharing of sexual text, video, and photographic content using mobile phones, apps, social networking services and other internet technologies. The sharing of explicit text, images and/or video, is an unacceptable and absolutely prohibited behavior and will have serious consequences and sanctions for those involved in accordance with the school's Code of Behaviour.

Please note that:

All incidents involving creating, storing, or sharing of explicit text, images and/or video of children under the age of 17 years will be reported as an incident to the Gardai and Tusla and the State Claims Agency (to the latter as there is a potential to cause injury/harm to the individual).

Sharing of Explicit text, images and/or videos of pupils in the school will incur serious sanctions including suspension and up to expulsion as determined by the Board of Management.

Approved by the Board of Management 16th March 2017