

# St Mary's Diocesan School Mobile Phone Policy



## **Mission Statement**

St. Mary's Diocesan School is a Catholic Secondary School under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Meath and patronage of the Bishop of Meath. The school is committed to the development of the whole person offering equal opportunities to all to achieve their full potential in a familial Christian environment. The school aspires to an education based on high ideals and a broad curriculum, which will allow our students to confidently play their role in society.

## **Aims**

We aim to develop a community of learning in which each pupil's talents, physical, intellectual, and spiritual, may unfold as fully as possible in an atmosphere of openness, confidence and generosity. We seek to promote in all our students' qualities of honesty and integrity and the capacity for authentic, courageous self-expression.

Our motto "In Christo Confido", inspires us to promote the emergence of reflective, articulate and committed Christians with a deep sense of their vocation to shape their world according to the values of the gospel.

The aim of this policy is to, firstly, protect the welfare, well-being and safety of all within our school community and, secondly, to provide an environment that is conducive to excellent teaching and learning. This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies.

- Code of Behaviour
- Anti-Bullying Policy (Bí Cineálta)
- Acceptable Use Policy
- Child Safeguarding Statement

**Mobile Phone Policy for 1st Year to 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Students 2026-27**

St Mary's Diocesan School recognises that technology will play an increasing part in future learning practices, and as the use of mobile phones do present several problems an opportunity to strengthen the mobile phone policy for incoming first year students from 2024, 2025 and 2026 year groups is welcomed as these year groups will have their own managed learning device.

Therefore, for the first-year students enrolling in August 2024, August 2025, and in August 2026 mobile phones will be banned - powered off and in schoolbags for the duration of the school day, and as soon as the campus is entered.

In order to assist the school in implementing this policy, parents/guardians are not to arrange to contact students by mobile phone at any time during the school day. Contact with the school may be made through the school office. If a student needs to contact home, he may do so by using the school office phone. Permission to use this phone must be given from the office.

**Mobile Phone Policy for all other students (4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> year students 2026/27)**

Our mobile phone policy is intended to minimise distractions during school hours. All mobile phones must be switched off and kept out of sight except during break times.

Phones may be used before and after school, during small break and lunch break. They are not allowed to be used in corridors or between the break of class. Phones can be used where teachers instruct students to do so for educational purposes only.

Taking photographs or filming is prohibited (unless instructed by a teacher to do so) and will result in serious sanctions and the phone will be confiscated immediately. Also, the misuse of mobile phones to engage in any form of bullying/ intimidation will have serious sanctions.

This includes break times, lunchtimes, during class or moving between classes.

**Sanctions for not following the mobile phone policy**

Mobile phones used outside permitted times will be confiscated. The length of confiscation will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Another sanction may be put in place along with the confiscation if learning and teaching has been disrupted and in the case of repeated confiscations. Phones will be given to a Deputy Principal and may be collected from the relevant Deputy Principal.

Repeatedly confiscated phones must be collected from the office by parents/guardians.

Please see St Mary's Acceptable Use Policy for guidelines and sanctions for the misuse of mobile phones.

**Ratification & Communication**

Ratified by our Board of Management in May 2026 and implemented on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Signed: Fergalín Óg Date: 28/5/26  
(Chairperson of the Board of Management)

Signed: Catherine M. Nicholas Date: 28/05/26  
(Principal)

This policy will be displayed on our website [www.stmarysds.ie](http://www.stmarysds.ie)

**Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be monitored on an on-going basis and will be reviewed and amended as the need arises.

**Student & Parent/Guardian Acceptance of the Mobile Phone Policy****STUDENT ACCEPTANCE**

Please review the School's ICT Acceptable Usage and Mobile phone Policy. Having done so, please sign this form to provide a written record that you have read, understood, and agreed to the terms of this policy. If you do not understand or are unhappy with any part of this policy, please contact the school.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT/GUARDIAN ACCEPTANCE**

As the parent or legal guardian of the above student:

- I confirm that I have read the mobile phone and ICT Acceptable Usage Policy and accept the terms.

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_