



Clonmel College

## Mobile Phone Restriction Policy

## Policy Statement

This policy restricts the use of personal mobile phones by students during the school day to:

- Improve the learning environment by reducing distractions.
- Reduce the risk of cyberbullying and access to inappropriate content.
- Encourage face-to-face social interaction among students.

## Scope

This policy applies to all students during the school day, including break and lunch times. It does not apply:

- During travel to and from school outside of school hours.

## Implementation Mechanisms

As currently stated in the Clonaslee College Code of Behaviour:

*“The use or possession of mobile phones, MP3/4 players, ear buds/airpods and similar electronic devices is not permitted in the school unless there is a medical requirement, and this must be signed by a doctor. The restriction on the use of non-sanctioned technology is to support the positive development of the students’ physical, emotional, social and mental wellbeing.”*

This policy reaffirms the position previously taken by the school that:

- If a student is found to be in the possession of a mobile phone, it must be given to the teacher, and it will then be brought to the Principal’s office, where it will be retained securely for the duration of the school day. A serious sanction will apply in the event of a phone/electronic device being confiscated. The parent/guardian will be informed that the device has been confiscated and the student is permitted to collect it at the end of the school day.
- For a subsequent offence, the student will face sanctions up to and including suspension.
- Students/Parents can make contact using the office phone.
- If a student refuses to give their mobile phone to the teacher, the parent/guardian will be called to collect the student or, in the event of this not being an option, the student will be separated from their peers and supervised for the remainder of the day.

## Exemptions

Exemptions should only apply for medical, wellbeing or specific practical reasons, or for reasons related to students’ special educational needs. The exemptions should allow students to access their phones for the specific reason outlined in the exemption, and not for general use.

The examples below are not exhaustive and consideration will be needed on a case-by-case basis. Examples of some of the possible issues where exemptions are justified may include, but are not limited to:

- Diabetes blood glucose monitor and/or insulin delivery mechanism.
- Blood pressure monitoring.
- Seizure conditions where monitoring via a mobile phone app is needed.
- Mental health conditions, where communication with parents/guardians on an unrestricted basis is needed.
- Additional/special educational needs, for specific tasks relating to a student's visual impairment, hearing impairment, speech and language impairments.

#### Consultation Process

Clonaslee College is aware of the benefits of consulting with parents/guardians, students, teachers, and non-teaching staff to support the development and implementation of school policies and have structures in place to facilitate such engagement. The implementation of this policy will be supported through existing consultation mechanisms. These may include:

- information sessions with students, parents/guardians and school staff
- discussion with the student councils
- engagement with parents' associations
- workshops and/or focus groups
- questionnaires and surveys
- usual staff meetings between teaching staff, non-teaching staff and school leaders

#### Related School Policies

This policy complements and aligns with the following:

- Bí Cineálta Policy
- Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)
- Code of Behaviour
- Wellbeing Policy

#### Communication and Review

This policy is published on the school website. It is reviewed annually or as needed based on feedback and developments. Staff, students and parents will be informed of updates.

#### Further Resources

Further information and resources from Webwise, Oide, NEPS, HSE, Department of Education and Youth and through the Bí Cineálta: Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Primary document will provide wellbeing information and tools for parents and support online safety.



Clonaslee College  
Clonaslee, Portlaoise, Co  
Laois, R32 R972

Telephone: 057-8648044  
Email:  
info@clonasleecollege.ie  
Web:  
<https://clonasleecollege.ie/>

---

This Policy was adopted by the Board of Management of Clonaslee College on:

Date: 18/5/26

Signed: Deirdre Caplice

Chairperson (BOM)

Sean Coffey

Principal

Date of next review:

31/5/27