LAGAN COLLEGE BELFAST

Mobile Phone Policy

Document Reviewed:	May 2026 by D Collins, VP Pastoral
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RELATED DOCUMENTS

1. DENI Circular 2024/14 – Guidance for Schools on Student's Personal Use of Mobile Phones and Other Similar Devices During the School Day.
2. Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
3. Addressing Bullying in Schools Policy
4. Positive Behaviour Policy

THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

This policy links to the UNCRC, Article 3 – 'Best Interests of the Child', student's best interests are considered by protecting their wellbeing, learning and reducing exposure to online risks during school time.

INTRODUCTION

Whilst it is acknowledged that the mobile phone and other telecommunications such as Ipads are very much a part of every-day life, we believe that there is no need for our students to have their mobile phones and other digital devices switched on during the school day at Lagan College. Teachers and students have a right to teach and to learn in a school environment that is safe and free from interruptions or distractions from mobile phones and other telecommunication devices not used for educational purposes. Therefore, Lagan College's policy states that such devices should be **"never used, seen, or heard."**

PROCEDURES AND PRACTICE

The use of mobile phones is not permitted during the school day. Mobile Phones must be switched off during school hours between 8.30am and 4.30pm. Silent or discreet settings are not acceptable. Students should all have a digital device for learning to access during lessons. Only students with a specific medical issue such Diabetics will be permitted to access their mobile phone during the school day.

MOBILE PHONES MUST BE "NEVER USED, SEEN, OR HEARD" DURING THE SCHOOL DAY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, otherwise the mobile phone will be confiscated from the student by a member of staff and sent to the main office. The office staff will record the confiscation of the item. The item can be signed out by the student on, not more than **2 occasions** at the end of the school day at 3.20pm.

On the 3rd occasion that your child's phone is confiscated, it will be returned to the student's parent/carer only and will need to be collected from the Principal or Vice Principal at a time that is convenient to them.

Lagan College accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are brought into the College and undertakes no responsibility to investigate their misplacement, damage, loss or theft. Furthermore, Lagan College accepts no responsibility for the health effects (potential or actual) resulting from mobile phone use.

It should be noted that the usage of mobile phones includes the sending and receiving of text messages, images and data. If it is brought to the school's attention that a student has been engaged in sending an inappropriate text message(s)/ voice message(s), video recording(s), e-mail(s) or image(s) or recording an event during the school day that may bring the College's name into disrepute and cause harm, he/she will experience appropriate disciplinary action. A breach of the College expectations by a student will result in a sanction and serious and/ or persistent breaches, will lead to a suspension.

Please be warned that during internal and external examinations students are not permitted to bring a mobile phone into the examination centre, hall or room under any circumstances. A student discovered with a mobile phone in an external examination, could have his/her paper annulled and be awarded a zero mark.

Arrangements will be in place for communication with the school and /or home in the case of emergency. Students may access the use of a phone via their Form Teacher, Head of Year and/or the General Office. The staff will continue to contact parents/ carers directly in the event of an emergency/ sickness.

Students may not use mobile phones during field trips, excursion or other associated activities except during recreational time.

These clear measures are being implemented to safeguard student welfare and enable staff and students to focus on learning rather than the staff spending an extortionate amount of time following up on a range of pastoral and bullying matters linked to the inappropriate use of mobile phones, IPads and other telecommunications during the school day.

Advice to students is printed in their Student Learning Planner. Parent(s)/Carer(s) are requested to response digitally that they have signed and agreed to this policy within their child's Learning Planner.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Mobile Phone policy will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that it reflects the school's ethos, values and focus on learning.

D Collins, June 2026