



## Student-owned Mobile Devices Policy (Primary)

### Introduction

In today's digital world, communications and content are available almost anywhere at any time. Mobile phones are multi-functional, smart devices which can be used for browsing the Internet, email, texting, mobile applications, social networking, photography and video.

Most mobile phones can connect to the Internet, via the mobile phone provider. This means that students are now able to access, download and upload content on school premises without using the school ICT network and the associated safeguards it has in place. In addition, it is increasingly common for mobile phones and other handheld devices (such as portable music players and portable gaming devices) to be able to connect to any open wireless access points from neighbouring buildings. These types of devices, if usage is not managed appropriately, pose serious challenges for schools who are trying to safeguard students' use of the Internet within school. However, as with most new technologies, used in a positive way they can provide new and exciting ways to promote learning and teaching. YCIS also acknowledges that some students may need to have a mobile phone at school for reasons relating to their safe travel to and from school. The school recognises that, when used responsibly, mobile devices can be useful tools to assist with communications, as well as the development of academic and social skills.

Some of the issues related to the use of personally owned mobile devices within school are:

- They are valuable items which can be lost, stolen or damaged.
- When used inappropriately cyberbullying incidents can take place.
- Internet access on phones and personal devices can allow students to bypass school internet filtering platforms.
- They can disrupt classroom activities.
- Mobile phones with integrated cameras could lead to child protection, bullying and data protection issues with regards to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images of students or staff.

### YCIS Guidelines

- Mobile phones and personally-owned mobile devices brought in to school are the responsibility of the device owner. The school accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of personally-owned mobile phones or mobile devices.
- Mobile phones and personal devices will not be used during the school day unless approved by a member of staff.
- No images or videos should be taken on mobile phones or personally-owned mobile devices without the **prior consent** of the person or people concerned.

## **Pupils' use of personal devices**

- Students should protect their phone numbers by only giving them to trusted friends and family members.
- If a student needs to contact his or her parents or guardian, they will be allowed to use a school phone or personal phone with teacher permission. Parents are asked not to contact their child via their mobile phone during the school day, but to contact the school office.
- If a student breaches the school policy then the phone or device may be confiscated and will be held in a secure place. Mobile phones and devices will be released to parents or guardian. The school reserves the right to withdraw the child's privilege of bringing a mobile device to school.