



Loch Garman

COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

To develop responsible individuals who will participate fully in a changing society and to carry out this task in a Christian environment.

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1. RATIONALE:

Coláiste Éamonn Rís, Wexford is a school that seeks the best for all it's Students.

We seek to maximise all the benefits of the Digital Age while minimising the harm than can result from overuse and uncontrolled use of digital platforms including mobile phones.

2. BACKGROUND:

With the widespread use of mobile phones since the late Nineties, and, the development of "Smartphones" since 2008, mobile phone usage has spiralled. Post Primary students access to mobile phones and associated platforms is now almost universal.

In Coláiste Éamonn Rís we have used new digital platforms including mobile phones to enrich and expand the delivery of the Courses we provide. We have used these new systems as educational aids and to enhance communications throughout the School Community.

In 2018/19 we began to experience some of the negative impacts of mobile phone use.... namely.... decreasing student/student interactions..... decreasing attention spans..... reading comprehension issues..... unauthorised phone use in class..... unauthorised Internet usage issues.

3. PLAN:

Having reviewed the available data in Ireland and internationally and following a comprehensive consultation process we decided, in 2022, to minimise the use of mobile phones but to continue to embrace modern technologies through the use of personal Student Devices.

The incoming First Years of 2023/24 were the initial year group of Students to switch to personal Devices and this policy is continuing and will be completed in 2028/29 when the entire Student population will have personal devices.

As each Year group gets Personal Devices, their use of mobile phones will be prohibited except in exceptional circumstances.

4. DEVICES:

The devices that will be chosen for the school will be specified from time to time by the BOM following consultations with relevant parties.

Reviews would take all factors, includingPrice.....Durability.....Suitability, into account.

5. 2026:

We are currently more than halfway through this process. First, Second, Third and Fourth Years have Personal Devices and their use of mobile phones is prohibited.

Fifth and Sixth Year Students use school devices and are allowed mobile phones at breaktimes and Lunchtime **only**, unless permitted by their teacher for educational purposes or other exceptional circumstances.

6. 2028/2029:

The entire Student population will have personal devices. Mobile phone usage throughout the school will be prohibited except in exceptional circumstances.

7. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Students will have their mobile phones switched off during the school day.

In the period between 2026 and 2028/29 specific groups of Students may be allowed to access mobile phones during lunch and breaktimes but not outside these times unless specifically directed by a teacher for educational purposes.

On occasions where mobile phone use is permitted, no Student should use their device for any activity that would be deemed inappropriate

- Eg.
- Recording audio, photo or video without permission
 - Posting anything School related online without School authority permission
 - Using a mobile phone or other device to bully, harass, embarrass or ridicule anybody
 - Using a mobile phone or device to access offensive or harmful information during the school day or during school activities
 - Using a mobile phone or device in any way that damages the schools reputation

Examples of some of the possible issues where exemptions are justified, and, may be permitted, might 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.

Access by an English as an Additional Language (EAL) student to specific applications to support language

Each exemption will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

8. STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES:

All Staff should monitor mobile phone usage and ensure that it complies with all policies of the school.

Staff should use mobile phones in the presence of students only for educational purposes, school business or in other exceptional circumstances.

Staff should apply agreed sanctions where mobile phones or devices are used inappropriately.

9. SANCTIONS:

Coláiste Éamonn Rís is not a school that is overly dependent on sanctions.

We endeavour to use restorative solutions where possible....Good sense and positivity can often be less invasive than harder sanctions for minor misuses of mobile phones or other devices.

However, confiscation of phones or devices may be appropriate in some cases.

Confiscated phones might be returned at the end of the school day or after a longer period for repeated misuses.

The BOM/Principal/Deputy-Principals may apply other sanctions as required.

10. REVIEW:

This Policy was reviewed on.....14-9-2026

APPENDIX 1:

STUDENT/PARENT ACCEPTANCE FORM:

STUDENT ACCEPTANCE:

Please review the School's 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 Policy and accept the terms.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____