



St Patrick's College Dungannon

Mobile Phone & Electronic Devices Summary Policy

Why Do We Have This Policy?

Mobile phones can be useful for learning, but they can also cause distractions. Our policy helps everyone stay focused, safe, and respectful while using technology. We want pupils to learn how to manage their phone use and build healthy habits for the future

Our Aims

- **Support Learning:** Use phones only when teachers say it's for learning.
- **Reduce Distractions:** Keep lessons calm and focused.
- **Stay Safe:** Stop misuse like cyberbullying or sharing private content.
- **Use Responsibly:** Learn good habits for school and beyond.

What Pupils Must Do

- Phones can only be used in lessons under the direction and supervision of the teacher.
- When not in use, phones must be **switched off or on silent and out of sight**.
- No phones during **break or lunch** – talk to friends instead!
- No social media, gaming, or non-school use during lessons.
- Never take photos or videos of pupils or staff without permission.
- If you feel unwell or need to contact home, go to the **school office** – do not text or call yourself.
- Phones must not be used on school trips to record others without permission.

What Staff Will Do

- Use phones responsibly and only for school purposes.
- Show pupils how to use technology for learning.
- Make sure pupils follow the rules and follow the Positive Behaviour Management Policy

What Parents Should Do

- Remind your child about the school rules for phones.
- Contact the school office if you need to reach your child – **do not text or call them during school hours**.
- Help your child keep their phone safe and secure.

If Phones Are Misused

- **First time:** Teacher asks pupil to put phone away.
- **Second time:** Phone taken until end of day. Demerit added.
- **Third time:** A parent/guardian must collect the phone from school.
- **Serious or repeated misuse:** Phone banned for the term or year.
If there are safeguarding concerns (e.g., inappropriate photos/videos), the phone will be checked, and parents will be informed.

Lost or Stolen Phones

The school is **not responsible** for lost or stolen phones.

Exceptions

If a pupil needs their phone for medical reasons or emergencies, but these will be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by SLT in advance.

Fluid Focus App

Students in Year 11-14 have free access to an app called Fluid Focus. This is a strategy to help students manage their own use of their mobile phone.

Key Features for Students

1. **Set Focus Sessions**
 - Students can schedule timed sessions where distracting apps are blocked, helping them concentrate on study or classwork.
2. **Track Screen Time**
 - The app shows how much time is spent on different apps, helping students understand their habits.
3. **Block Distracting Apps**
 - Social media, games, and other non-essential apps can be temporarily disabled during focus periods.
4. **Create Goals**
 - Students can set personal goals for reducing screen time and improving productivity.
5. **Receive Reminders & Notifications**
 - Gentle reminders encourage students to stay on task and avoid distractions.
6. **View Progress Reports**
 - The app provides insights into how well students are managing their phone use over time.
7. **Build Healthy Habits**
 - Encourages breaks, balance, and mindful use of technology.

Benefits of Fluid Focus App

1. **Improves Concentration**
 - Helps students stay focused during study or class time by reducing digital distractions.
2. **Reduces Screen Time**
 - Encourages healthier habits by limiting unnecessary phone use and promoting balance.
3. **Builds Self-Management Skills**
 - Supports pupils in learning how to control their phone usage independently, a skill useful for school, work, and life.

Linked Policies

- Safeguarding Policy
- Positive Behaviour Management
- Code of Conduct
- Acceptable Use Policy

