



## Athy College Mobile Phone Policy

Mobile phones, and other electronic devices that access the internet, together with Social Media are becoming a huge distraction to student life. To allow students to benefit properly from school it is important that we minimise this disruption.

Mobile phone use\*, Facebook and other Social Media, texting, tweeting, listening to music etc **is not allowed on the school premises (inside or outside)**. This includes texting or contacting parents or family members. Likewise the taking of photographs, video or audio recordings is a serious invasion of our privacy and is not permitted. The posting of images/videos taken on the school grounds on social media will have serious disciplinary consequences. This includes extra curricular and school activities

We would expect to see students involved in conversation and activities during break and lunchtime and will be enforcing this policy. The wearing of earphones or headphones at any time during the school day is not permitted.\*

Athy College is not responsible for the loss of or damage to mobile phones within school grounds or on extra curricular activities, school trips or tours.

**Phones which are visible and/or are powered on on the school premises will be confiscated and returned at the Principal's discretion, normally at the end of the day.**

We ask parents/guardians for your support in creating a distraction-free environment in the school. Parents should not contact their son/daughter directly during the school day. Contact during class time should only be made via the school office - 0598631663. A student, who wishes to contact home for any reason during the school day, must arrange to do so through their Tutor or Year-Head and not independently by mobile phone. On occasions social media can be used to insult, defame, threaten or incite. As most of the student body are minors, the parents/guardians must assume responsibility for the content of these messages and those affected will be encouraged by the school to contact the Gardai

\*Teachers may encourage the **appropriate** use of mobile phones/earphones in pursuit of learning, in classrooms and other learning settings within or without the school. There may be occasions where teachers allow students to bring phones etc to a specific class for a sound educational reason, e.g. to photograph projects, but this is only under the teacher's supervision.