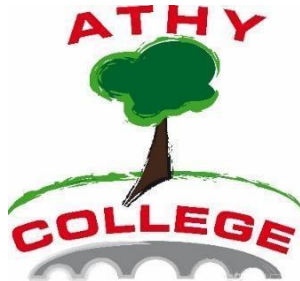


**Athy College ,
Athy, Co.
Kildare.**
*Coláiste Áth-Í,
Áth-Í, Cho. Chill
Dara.*

Principal:
Deputy Principal's:

Richard Daly
Ciana Ennis
Brenda Sweeney

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Athy College Kildare

Mobile Phone Policy

Signed:

Chairperson of Board of Management

Approval Date: _____

Signed:

Principal

Approval Date: _____



BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA
CHILL DARÁ AGUS CHILL MHANTÁIN
KILDARE AND WICKLOW
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

MISSION STATEMENT

In a caring school we are dedicated to fostering educational excellence empowering all students to reach their full potential – academic and social, physical and spiritual. Through partnership and cooperation, we openly respect and nurture the dignity and uniqueness of each individual’.

RATIONALE

The aim of this policy is to protect the welfare, well-being and safety of all within our school community and to provide an environment that is conducive to excellent learning and teaching.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies.

- Code of Behaviour
- Bi Cinealta Policy
- Acceptable Use Policy
- Child Safeguarding Statement
- Wellbeing Policy

Athy College recognises that mobile phones and personal smart devices are now an integral part of young people’s lives and that they can have considerable value when used appropriately. However, in a school setting, it has been our experience that mobile phones and personal smart devices can prevent effective teaching and learning from taking place and inhibit the social development of students. Additionally, instances of inappropriate photographing/videeing of members of the school community and inappropriate communications via social media apps can heighten anxiety and stress levels amongst our students and in some severe cases this can lead to incidents of bullying.

As an ETB school, the [ETBI Patrons’ Framework on Ethos](#) underpins all policies and practices in Athy College. It informs the values promoted in our school, how the formal



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and hidden curricula are delivered, and the nature of the relationships within our school. As such, Athy College is committed to and underpinned by the core values of:

- Excellent in Education
- Care
- Respect
- Equality
- Community



In particular, this policy is informed by the core values of **excellence in education, care** and **respect**, where the welfare, wellbeing and safety of the entire school community must be respected and cared for in order to create an environment that is supportive of excellent teaching and learning.

Our Code of Behaviour states that “Mobile phones, music players, ear pods and other electronic devices are not allowed to be used on the school premises unless given school permission. If a mobile phone goes off or a student is caught texting/phoning without permission, the phone will be confiscated by their teacher who will then give it to the student’s Year Head” pg 5

With this in mind, we will be strictly enforcing the following rules in the upcoming school year.

- **No phone usage in any school building at any time or on any school related activity/trip** . If a student needs to bring a phone to school the phone must be switched on and placed in locker/school bag. If a phone is visible it will be confiscated . If Athy College is a Google Reference School and all students are required to have their own personal Chromebook to access Google Workspace. Phones are not allowed to access Google Classroom or any Google app during the school day
- **Phones and Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs)** e.g., smartwatches, earbuds etc. **must be switched off upon entering the school campus**. They can then be **locked in the student’s locker** when they come into the main school building.

- **The inappropriate use of phones/cameras/ PEDs is strictly forbidden at all times** while on the school campus and during all school related activities.
- Students must not use PEDs to interact with any other students or to access any messages /material that may be stored on their device.

***Please note: School campus includes all school grounds, buildings, gym, astroturf, GAA pitch etc.**

- **In cases of emergency or necessity** (e.g., student has forgotten an important item, student needs a change of uniform etc.), students can phone their parent/ guardian from the school office , AP1 office or the Deputy Principal's office.
- No student has permission, at any time, to charge their phones in the school.
- Whilst this policy relates to the use of phones/PED in school by students, the school reserves the right to investigate the inappropriate use of phones/PED outside of school if such usage impacts negatively upon students or staff
- The school will accept no liability for damage to, loss or theft of mobile phones/PED devices. Students who bring their mobile phone/ PEDs onsite are responsible for ensuring that their phone/PED is stored in their locker which is securely locked and that their phone is protected by a password that is known to them alone

Sanctions for Breaches of Mobile Phone Policy

Students who choose not to adhere to our Mobile Phone Policy will have the following sanctions applied.

- **1 st offence:** Phone is handed over to the teacher/Year Head/ member of Senior Management Team (SMT) and secured in the Deputy Principal's office **until the end of that school day. The phone must be collected by the student at the end of the day. A note is recorded on VS Ware.**
- **2nd offence:** Phone is handed over to the teacher/ Year Head/ member of SMT and secured in the Deputy Principal's office until the end of the school day. **The phone must be collected by a parent/guardian at the end of the day.**

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- **3 rd offence:** Phone is handed over to the teacher/ Year Head/ member of SMT and secured in the Deputy Principal's office in a lock box. **The phone must be collected by a parent/ guardian at the end of the school day. A sanction will be imposed for repeat offense.**
- Failure to hand over a mobile phone/ PED including the SIM card when requested will result in sanctions up to and including suspension.

The implementation of this mobile phone policy is in order to maintain a safe, nurturing environment where the personal dignity and rights of all members of Athy College's school community are preserved. In order to assist the school in implementing this policy, parents/guardians are asked not to arrange to contact students by mobile phone/PED at any time during the school day. All communication during the school day between parents/guardians and the school must take place through our school office via the VShare app or the office phone (059-8631663)



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