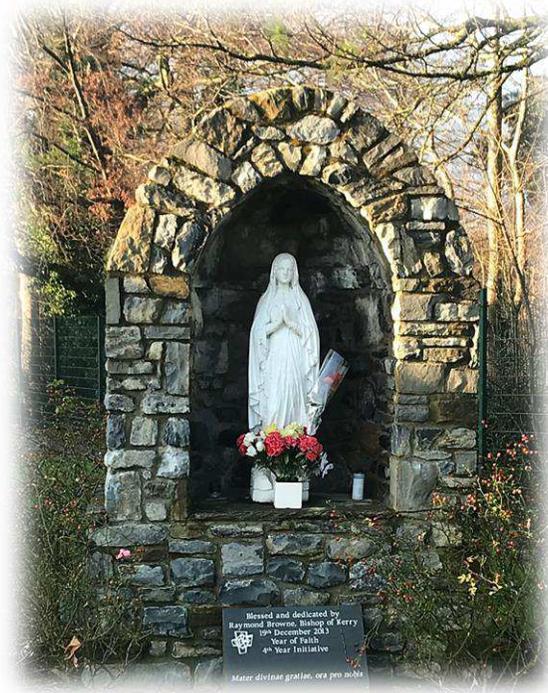




PRESENTATION
SECONDARY SCHOOL
TRALEE

COURTESY FRIENDLINESS CO-OPERATION

Mobile Phone Policy



Reviewed October 2019	Ratified by the Board of Management 24 th October 2019	Review date October 2021
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School Mission Statement

Inspired by the vision of Nano Nagle, Presentation Secondary School, Tralee is a caring, student-centered learning community comprised of students, their families and staff.

As members of our community, each of us is called to work together to create a supportive, fair, honest and compassionate environment so that our students are equipped and empowered to take their place as valuable members of society.

We work to reach for excellence in our areas of talent and skill while respecting the uniqueness of each person.

CEIST Charter

The core values of CEIST are intended to support and nourish the lives of the people at the heart of our school: students, staff and parents. Its key principles focus on:

- Promoting spiritual and human development.
- Achieving quality in teaching and learning.
- Showing respect for every person.
- Creating community.
- Being just and responsible

Wellbeing Ethos

Presentation Secondary School Tralee has formulated the following mobile phone policy in accordance with our mission statement and in accordance with our wellbeing ethos which centers on providing a caring and safe learning environment for all.

Rationale for the Policy

There is an ever-increasing need for clear regulations in relation to the use of mobile phones by our young people, both at home and in school. The advances in the technology of mobile phones brings with them added dangers relating to the misuse of this technology. Text messaging can become a simply executed but potentially very serious form of bullying. Use of phone for photographs creates other potential dangers, leading to a breach of privacy, or worse, a medium for abuse. Furthermore, the misuse of mobile phones in class has a disruptive effect on classroom teaching and learning.

Nevertheless, the Board of Management recognises that mobile phones do have a positive aspect and can be helpful as a communication tool to protect students from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. This policy endeavors to balance the positive against the negative and encourages responsible use of mobile phones.

Mobile Phone Policy in Presentation Secondary School Tralee

Where a student brings a mobile phone to school, the phone must be kept out of sight and switched off while the student is on the school premises/grounds. The only exceptions to this are a) in an emergency with the approval of a teacher b) with teacher's permission during school trips/outside activities and c) with the express permission of the teacher as part of the learning activities of a class or subject.

Any student who wishes to make contact with parents/guardians must do so through the school office. Parents/guardians are requested to make contact with their child through the school office. The school office remains the most appropriate point of contact and can ensure a student is reached quickly and assisted in the appropriate way.

Under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1953, it is a criminal offence to use a phone to menace, harass or offend another person and as such, management may consider it appropriate to contact the Gardaí.

Students with mobile phones may not engage in personal attacks, harass a person or post private information using text messages or any social media platform. Students with mobile phones may not take/send photos or objectionable images or use a mobile phone to upload any images, information of objectionable messages/comments on social networking sites.

Students using mobile phones to bully other students will face disciplinary actions as sanctioned by the School's Code of Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy.

The misuse of a mobile phone including a camera phone in taking or sending inappropriate images, unauthorised recording of staff and students, transfer of images of staff or pupils or using the phone to harass will be considered a serious discipline offence.

Implementation Procedures

1. Students who use a mobile phone without permission or whose mobile phone is activated in class will be required to power off their phone and hand it, including the sim card, to a member of staff. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action being taken in accordance with the School's Code of Positive Behaviour.
2. The student will also be given a detention to be completed on the date decided by the member of staff and a memo of the incident will also be recorded.
3. The phone will be given to the Deputy Principal and can be redeemed by a parent/guardian by appointment at the end of the school day or at a later time by agreement. The student will be allowed to contact the

parent/guardian from the school office to inform them the phone has been confiscated during the break following the confiscation of their phone.

4. Students who refuse to hand up their mobile phones upon request will be subject to more serious sanctions as outlined in the School's Code of Positive Behaviour.

4. For continuous breaches of this policy or for a more serious breach of the policy, school management will respond appropriately and, in such cases, will have a full range of sanctions open to them as laid out in the Code of Positive Behaviour.

Responsibility for Mobile Phones

The School accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.

The safety and security of mobile phone is wholly the responsibility of students/parents.

The School accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their phone stolen while travelling to or from school.

The School accepts no responsibility for incidents that occur as a result of the mobile phone being confiscated.

The Role of Parents/Guardians in Supporting Students

During school time parents/guardians should communicate with their child through the school office only.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to remind their child that mobile phones must be powered off on the school premises/grounds during school time.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss with their child the dangers of inappropriate mobile phone use and are encouraged to monitor their daughter's use of a mobile phone.

Presentation Secondary School Tralee operates a voluntary mobile phone curfew for our students. We ask that all parents support this curfew.