



Loreto Abbey Secondary School, Dalkey

## Mobile Phone/Smart Phone Policy

### 1. Introduction

1.1 While Loreto Abbey Secondary School accepts that it is a student's right to have a mobile phone, the following policy aims to maintain a safe, nurturing environment where the personal dignity and rights of all the members of the school community are preserved.

1.2 This policy should be read with reference to the Code of Behaviour and the Anti-Bullying Policy and in order to assist the school in implementing this policy, parents/guardians are asked not to arrange to contact students by mobile phone at any time during the school day. Contact with the school may be made through the office at 012718900 and students are directed to use the office phone in emergencies.

### 2. Rules

a) Where a student brings a mobile phone to school, the mobile phone/smart phone must be switched off during the school day and stored in a locked locker. They may not be used for any purpose on school premises or grounds. This period is inclusive of break and lunch times.

b) Students found in contravention of (a) will have their mobile phone/smart phone confiscated immediately and stored in the safe in the office. The phone will be confiscated for 24 hours and parents will be informed. Should a parent state that their daughter requires her phone for her journey home, the student will then have to return the phone to the office the following morning in order to complete the designated period of confiscation. Students will also have to sit on the spot lunch time detention on the day of confiscation or at the next opportunity.

c) Mobile phones/smart phones may not be used for photographs or recording. Using phones in such a way can seriously infringe on people's rights and appropriate sanctions may be imposed.

d) Incidents where students use mobile phones to bully others in the school or send offensive messages or calls will be investigated under the Anti-Bullying policy. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardai in such incidents.

e) The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones. The safety and security of mobile phones is wholly a matter for students / parents.

f) It is strongly advised that students mark their mobile phones with their names and use pin codes to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones.

This policy will be revised following consultation with parents, students and staff in the 2018/2019 academic year in accordance with the terms of Circular 0038/2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eilis Humphreys". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Signed: Dr. Eilis Humphreys, Chairperson.

14th May 2024