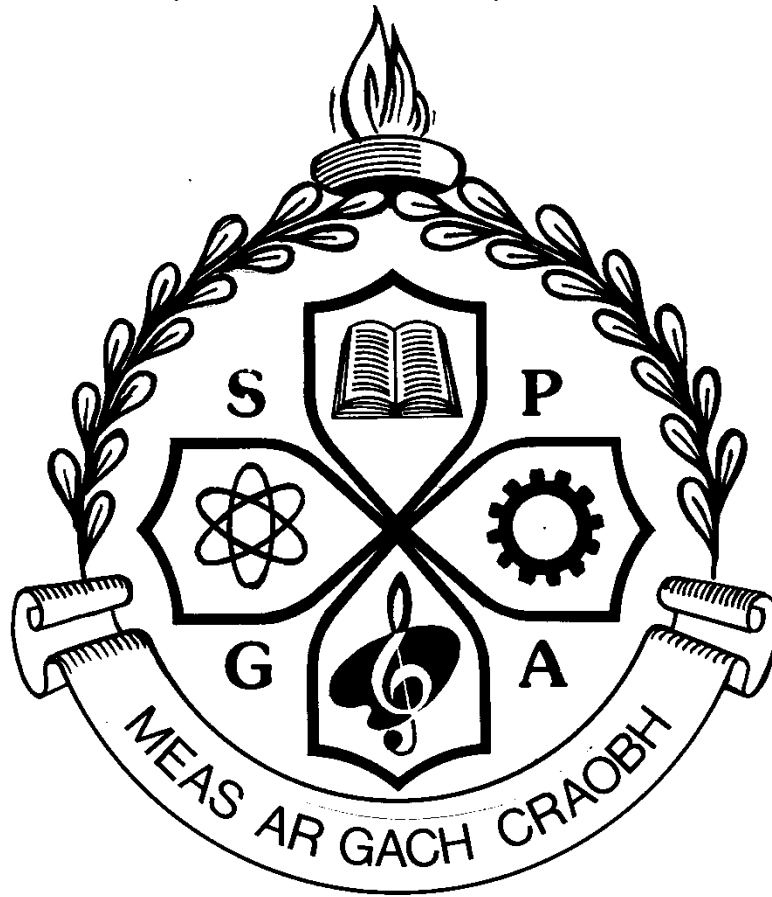


Mobile Phone / Audio Devices Policy  
Mayfield Community School



## MISSION STATEMENT

**Together We Learn  
Together We Care  
Together We Respect**

### **We Operate a Power Down Policy in our School.**

Objectives of our School:

- To provide a well ordered, sensitive, caring environment where the intellectual, spiritual, creative, physical, moral and cultural needs of the pupils are identified and addressed
- To promote a curriculum designed to accommodate individual learning styles so that all may experience success
- To create the environment where pupils develop a love of learning and acquire a wide range of learning skills that help them become independent and self-sufficient adults who will succeed and contribute responsibly in a global community
- To encourage pupils to take ownership and responsibility for their behaviour and learning
- We see personal discipline as central to achieving a well ordered, sensitive and caring atmosphere in which learning can take place
- To ensure opportunity is provided for pupils to participate in a variety of physical activities and experience a sense of well-being and self confidence that arises from good health and fitness
- To promote and facilitate further education for the local and wider community
- To empower teachers to fulfil their roles as educators and to promote a sense of community and support among staff
- To give due recognition to all religious beliefs and to reflect and reinforce the Christian Ethos of the community we serve
- To show appreciation of our diverse heritage, traditions and cultures
- To show respect in regard to self, to one another, to property and to our environment
- To nurture in our students a reverence for all of creation and a care for the earth

**We believe this vision is best summarised in our motto –**

**Meas ar Gach Craobh  
Respect for All**

**Student Learning**

**Student Well-Being**

**Acknowledging Student Success**

Our policy aims to maintain a safe, nurturing environment where the personal dignity and rights of all the members of the school community are preserved.

The school's policy on mobile phones is devised with the intention of ensuring that teaching and learning can take place without interruption and with the intention of protecting students and staff from potential harassment or bullying.

This policy is based on the growing concerns expressed about the impact of the use of mobile phones during the school day, including the potential for distraction during class time, the risk of accessing inappropriate content and cyberbullying and the potential for decreased social interaction with peers.

In order to assist the school in implementing this policy, parents/guardians are asked not to contact students by mobile phone **at any time during the school day**. Contact with the school may be made through the office at 4506855 and students are directed to use the office phone in emergencies.

A student, who wishes to go home for any reason during the school day must arrange to do so through the school office and not independently by mobile phone. If a student is feeling unwell, we will contact the parent / guardian by phone and we will ask you to collect your son / daughter from school. We will never allow a student to leave our school feeling unwell without their parent or a designated person.

Where a student brings a mobile phone to school, the phone must be switched off. Phones must be switched off during class time and in between classes. Earphones must not be used during class time or in the social areas.

No photographs can be taken or recordings made while on school premises and during school related activities unless permission is given. Using mobile phones in such a way without permission seriously infringes on people's rights and will result in the student being suspended in line with the school's code of behaviour policy.

The school has the right to ensure in so far as is practicable, that the phone contains no images or information which would compromise any member of the school community.

Inappropriate use of mobile phones includes:

Sexting is the sharing of sexual text, video, and photographic content using mobile phones, apps, social networking services and other internet technologies. The sharing of explicit text, images and/or video, is an unacceptable and absolutely prohibited behaviour and will have serious consequences and sanctions for those involved in accordance with the school's Code of Behaviour.

Please note that:

- All incidents involving creating, storing, or sharing of explicit text, images and/or video of children under the age of 17 years will be reported as an incident to the Gardaí and Tusla and the State Claims Agency (to the latter as there is the potential to cause injury/harm to the individual).
- Sharing or the showing of explicit text, images and/or videos of pupils in the school will incur serious sanctions including suspension and up to expulsion as determined by the Board of Management.

### **Sanctions for Misuse of Mobile Phones/Digital Devices in the Classroom:**

1. The teacher sees a student with a phone in class and instructs the student to put the phone away, and the class is reminded of the Phone rules in the school.
2. Teacher logs on VSware student had phone out in class
3. The teacher sees the same student with a phone. The teacher instructs the student to put the phone on the teacher's desk or designated drawer/box and power it off.
4. Student takes the phone at the end of class.
5. Student refused to give the phone (Teacher explains sanctions that will follow - refusal to carry out teacher instructions.
6. Failure to comply with this results in further disciplinary action Serious incident (S1 Form - completed by teacher). Parents are contacted and a meeting will take place with the student, reporting teacher and the Deputy Principal in attendance. As per our Code of Behaviour, the student is suspended for blatant refusal to follow a reasonable request.

### **Phones in the corridor and social areas:**

Our corridors and social areas are screen free zones; students MUST put phones away. Students who break this regulation will be issued with detention. Detention will be supervised by the relevant Year Tutor.

The parents of students who consistently use their phone during lunchbreaks will be contacted and asked to come into our school to collect their son / daughter's phone.

Note: The school has no sanctioned social media platforms for students

Incidents where students use mobile phones/digital devices to bully other students or send offensive messages or calls will be investigated under the Anti-Bullying Policy for Students. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone/digital device to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardaí in such incidents.

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

It is important to note that the use of google chromebooks and laptops will be supported and indeed encouraged, provided they are used under the direct guidance of a staff member in the context of teaching and learning and in line with our school's Acceptable Use Policy and Digital Learning Plan.

Ratified by the Board of Management on: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024

This policy is subject to periodic review

Signature –

---

Chairperson, Board of Management:

Signature –

---

Secretary, Board of Management