

## **Lusk Community College**

### **Personal Electronic Device Policy including Mobile Phone**

(Adopted by the Board of Management on 1/07/2013)

#### **Rationale:**

While we accept in Lusk Community College that it is often common practice for a student to have personal devices such as a mobile phone this policy also refers to the wide range of personal electronic devices available with varied technological capabilities. This policy aims to maintain a safe, nurturing environment where the personal dignity and rights of all the members of the 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 at any time during the school day. Contact with the school may be made through the school office and students are requested to use the office phone in emergencies.

- a) Where a student brings a personal electronic device and/or mobile phone to school, the device or phone must be switched off and kept locked in his/her locker during the school day and may not be used for any purpose on school premises or grounds.
- b) Students found breaking the above rule may have their personal electronic devices and/or phones, including SIM cards, confiscated for 24 hours for the first offence, 48 hours for the second offence and thereafter at the discretion of the Principal.
- c) No photographs can be taken or recordings, video or audio, made with personal electronic devices or mobile phones of any person on the school premises or grounds. Using devices or phones in such a way can seriously infringe a person's rights and appropriate sanctions may be imposed.
- d) Incidents where students use personal electronic devices or mobile phones to bully others or send offensive messages or calls will be investigated under the Anti-Bullying policy. In the event that a mobile phone or personal device is used inappropriately (e.g. inappropriate photos / recordings / texts) all the offending material will be deleted completely and parents/guardians attend the school with their son or daughter for a meeting with the Principal to discuss the matter before the device is returned to the student. Suspension may also be imposed on the student. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a device or 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 personal electronic devices or mobile phones. The safety and security of devices or mobile phones is wholly a matter for students / parents.
- f) It is strongly advised that students mark their personal electronic devices or mobile phones with their names and use passwords to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones.

**Monitoring and Reviewing of Personal Electronic Device Policy including Mobile Phone**

This policy will be monitored by the Principal, Year Leaders, Class tutors, class teachers and the Guidance Counsellor in conjunction with Student Council and Parents' Association on an annual basis and will be formally reviewed in 2013/2014 academic year.

Signed: (Student) \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: (Parent/Guardian) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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