



**Blackrock College**  
**Mobile Phone Policy**

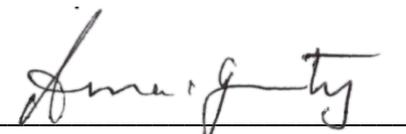
The well-being of our students is a key priority of the school. Technology has an important influence on student well-being which can be both positive and negative. We acknowledge the benefits that technology brings to teaching, learning and our broader lives. However, it is equally important to recognise the value of disconnecting from technology in order to reconnect with ourselves, those around us and the world we live in. This policy combined with related initiatives aims to enhance student well-being.

Blackrock College recognises and accepts that communication through mobile phones is a part of everyday life and that mobile phones, when used judiciously, can enhance Teaching and Learning. Teachers may allow the use of mobile phones in their own classrooms and in other settings in the school. This use is entirely at the discretion of the individual class teacher. The widespread ownership of mobile phones requires that the school community takes the necessary steps to ensure that mobile phones are used responsibly at school. Hence some restrictions must apply in certain circumstances:

- Unless otherwise directed by the class teacher, where students bring a mobile phone to school, the phone must be switched off or on silent during class times.
- The phone may be used during lunch breaks. Parents who need to contact their son should only do so out of class time – i.e. before/after school or at lunchtime. In the case of emergency, parents should call reception.
- If a phone goes off in class or is being used without permission it will be confiscated. Sanctions will be at the discretion of the Dean
- No inappropriate photographs or digital recordings may be made or shared. Students may not take photographs or digital recordings of others without prior permission.
- Incidents, where students use a mobile phone to bully others, will be investigated under the Anti-Bullying policy of the school. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person.
- The school accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Students in the 2018/19 academic year may only have talk/text phones when on the College campus, i.e. no smart phones are allowed.
- Sanctions include confiscation, detention and suspension.

This policy has been ratified by the Board of Management on 4.09.18

Signed:   
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed:   
Secretary, Board of Management