**Focus of the Policy:**

* Mobile phones/smart phones/ smart watches
* All electronic devices

 **Rationale**

* It is important for students to develop their socialisation and communication skills with peers and over-use of mobile phones impedes this.
* It must be acknowledged that students need to learn to manage and use devices in an effective manner.

**Policy**

* It is illegal to display or circulate images of another person without their permission. The potential for misuse of phones during school activities exists and it could have bullying implications.
* Mobile phones are expensive and the school cannot accept responsibility for loss of, theft or damage to, mobile phones etc. while on school property (this includes confiscated items).

**If students insist on bringing a mobile phone or other electronic devices to school:**

They must

* + be locked in his/her locker and not carried on his/her person or in school bags.
	+ Remain switched off during school-based activities.
	+ As per legislation, audio or visual recordings are not allowed.
* The DES does not recognise mobile phones as appropriate for use as calculators or clocks and as such.
* There are occasions when students are allowed mobile phones on school activities e.g. when on school trips or tours and other events when students are away from school where there’s a need to contact teachers/parents/guardians. Inappropriate use of phones during school related activities is strictly forbidden.

**Sanctions:**

1. Devices being carried by students will be confiscated and held until the end of the day.

2. Phones being used by students will be confiscated and held for one week.

3. Refusal by students to cooperate in handing over the mobile phone, being confiscated and held for two weeks.

4. The teacher will store the mobile phone in a designated location in the Deputy Principal’s office.

5. The mobile phone may be collected, by students, from the Deputy Principal’s office at the end of the day, week or two weeks, as applicable.

**Emergency Calls:**

* All calls from students to parents/guardians must be made from the school office, with prior permission sought.