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PRIORY
INTEGRATED COLLEGE
· HOLYWOOD ·

Truth | Trust | Excellence | Empowerment | Respect

Policy Name:	Mobile phone and Media device
Review date:	June 2021
Date to be reviewed:	
Agreed by the BOG on:	
Policies which are linked to this policy:	

Integrated Education

Integrated Education has been one of the most significant social developments within Northern Ireland in the last 40 years. Our integrated ethos permeates everything we do and our warm community atmosphere reflects a culture of acceptance and belonging. This is coupled with the high expectations we have of all our pupils and together, creates an environment where pupils excel.

Integration is prioritised by school leadership and features as part of the school development plan. This is led by the Integration Coordinator and supported strategically and practically by the Principal and extended leadership team.

The four core principles of integrated education are equality, faith and values, parental involvement and social responsibility. Such core values are both taught and displayed. We seek to promote parity of esteem between all pupils and we celebrate difference in all its manifestations. Together – the word on our college crest – reflects our belief that we are stronger being an active part of the Priory family and together we achieve.

In accordance with Article 29, we actively plan for our pupils to develop their talents, skills and abilities so that they can achieve academically, grow holistically into kind and caring young people, and be able to succeed as global citizens in the world of work.



MOBILE PHONE AND MEDIA DEVICE POLICY PRIORY INTEGRATED COLLEGE

Chairperson of Board of Governors

Signature:

Date of Ratification:

Date of Review:



Links to other policies:

School owned iPad Acceptable Use policy

Safeguarding and Child Protection policy

Discipline policy

Pastoral Care policy

Integrated Education has been one of the most significant social developments within Northern Ireland in the last 40 years. Priory Integrated College wears its Integrated ethos and practice with pride. Integration is prioritised by school leadership and is led by the Principal and Board of Governors. The four core principles of Integrated Education - **equality, faith and values, parental involvement** and **social responsibility** are central in all we do. Integration and Inclusion remains high on the agenda of the college and we will endeavour to make sure that every child is welcomed and taught in a safe and nurturing Priory Integrated College.

COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Priory Integrated College welcomes children from all traditions, cultures and abilities. Together, we aim to empower every child to reach their full potential, in a nurturing, caring environment which upholds respect and excellence for all.

Article 16 Right to Privacy
Article 28 Right to Education

Rationale

Smartphones and 4G enabled Devices including smart watches, (henceforth refereed to as media devices) are now a feature of modern day society and most of the pupils who attend Priory Integrated College are in possession of one. Increasing sophistication of this technology presents a number of issues for schools.

- The high value of many smartphones/ devices
- The inherent dangers associated due to the integration of cameras in smartphones leading to child protection and data protection issues
- The potential to use the phone inappropriately during break or lunchtimes thus causing disagreements and then disruption to the rest of the school day
- The interruption to learning by usage during the school day
- The increasing need to protect from any invasion of privacy or harassment associated with the misuse of smartphones

It is not realistic to ban smartphones/ media devices from the college. We do agree that phones/ media devices do have a positive aspect and can be helpful as a communication tool in emergencies **before** and **after** college. This policy attempts to create a balance between the positive and the negative and encourages the responsible use of phones/ media devices at the appropriate and agreed times.

1. **Mobile Telephones/ Media Device Use**

Mobile phones/ media devices may only be used at the following times:

Prior to the start of the school day. Pupils should ensure their phones/ media devices are away on arrival to the school building.

After the college has ended – 3pm or after the completion of a recognised extra-curricular college activity

In the presence of a senior member of staff in an exceptional circumstance

At all other times mobile phones/ media device must be turned off and out of view (**Not in the front pocket of the school blazer .**)

During Physical Education lessons and Practical Home Economics lessons mobile phones/ media devices MAY be given to the staff for safe keeping. These will be returned at the end of each lesson. *It is the pupil's responsibility to ensure that these are collected from staff at the end of lessons.*

Safeguarding

If staff at Priory Integrated College receive information that a mobile phone/media device contains any inappropriate photos, videos or other digital content then they reserve the right to confiscate this phone/media device. They will then inform the Designated teacher for Child Protection. Any further action will be in line with the college Discipline Policy. Similar action will be taken in instances where the mobile phone/ media device is used in a bullying incident.

2. Emergencies and Sickness

If a pupil needs for any reason to contact his/her parents or carers they may do so through college office, Head of Year/ Head of School/ Senior Staff member. Where a pupil is sick they should go to their Head of Year or Head of School who will contact home. They should **NEVER** contact their parents directly. *An automatic after school detention will be issued to any child who has not gone through the appropriate channels.*

If parents/carers need to contact pupils as a matter of urgency they should phone the college office where a message will be promptly relayed.

3. Listening to Music while studying

We at Priory Integrated College understand that some pupils use music to assist them in all aspects of study. Studies have proven that concentration can be increased whilst listening to background music, (*Music Moves Brain to Pay Attention, Stanford School of Medicine August 2007*) With this in mind senior pupils from Year 11-14 can use Spotify **on their iPads** to do so at the following times:

Senior College and Sixth Form pupils may listen to music on the iPads during lunch and break.

Senior College and Sixth form pupils may use their iPads to listen to music in lessons when it has been agreed with their subject teacher and the Head of the Department

4 **Sanctions**

Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone/ media device at a time other than indicated above, the item will be confiscated from the pupil and kept in the college office until the end of the school day. It will be placed in an envelope with the owner's name clearly identified. The incident will be recorded on SIMs. The pupil's name will be recorded in the Phone Log in the office.

For a second offence the procedure will remain the same with parents/carers contacted by the Head of Year. The Head of Year will arrange for the phone to be signed into the school office at the beginning of the school day and collected at the end of the school day for **one week**. The student will also receive an **after school detention**.

Further occasions will result in the phone being signed into the office for a further week and after school detention. Parents/Carers will be asked to attend an interview with the Head of Year/ Head of School.

If a pupil is seen using their phone, (which they know they are not meant to do) out of respect for the member of staff the college would expect for that pupil to hand over that phone to the staff member concerned.

If disrespect were to be shown at this point the Head of Year or a Senior member of staff may be contacted and the issue will be dealt with in accordance with the college Discipline Policy.

5 Responsibility

Priory Integrated College accepts no responsibility whatsoever for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile phones/ media devices. It is the responsibility of the owners of this equipment to ensure that they are properly insured.

**A MOBILE PHONE OR MEDIA DEVICE SHOULD NEVER BE
USED TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS/VIDEOS/AUDIO
RECORDINGS OF OTHER STUDENTS OR OF MEMBERS OF
STAFF WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE OR PERMISSION**

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