

Mount Temple Comprehensive School

Mobile Phone Policy



In line with government policy, the restriction on mobile phone use in schools is intended to address **growing concerns**, 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**.

The national policy aims to improve the learning environment by reducing distractions, reducing the risk of cyberbullying, and fostering better peer interaction. Mount Temple's policy echoes these goals, is developed with the school community, and approved by the board of management.

The Mount Temple Comprehensive School Mobile Phone Policy addresses the concerns mentioned in the government circular* by:

- **Minimising Distraction:** The policy mandates that phones be switched off and put away during the school day, unless a teacher gives explicit permission for their use as a learning aid.
- **Addressing Cyberbullying and Inappropriate Content:** The policy strictly prohibits taking photos or videos on school grounds without permission and states that using a phone to bully others is a criminal offence. Using a phone in such a way can seriously infringe on people's privacy and rights.
- **Incidents where students use a mobile phone to bully others** by sending offensive messages or calls will be investigated under the [Bí Cineálta](#) Anti-Bullying policy by the school. It should be noted that using a mobile phone to menace, harass, or offend another person is a criminal offence.
- **Encouraging Social Interaction:** While not explicitly stated, the restriction on phone use during the school day implicitly encourages students to engage with their peers and learning environment, rather than their devices.

* https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/Circ0044_MobPhone_Ban_PrimarySchools_Final.pdf Circular

MOBILE PHONE USAGE PROCEDURES

Student in all year groups from 1st year to TY should have their phones in a sealed personal pouch during the school day/ whilst on school trips and activities(mobile phone pouch unlocking devices are available to staff as required if deemed necessary for trips/activities). **These should be powered off or on silent/airplane mode.**

There are designated unlocking points for use before the start of the day and at home time. These stations should not be interfered with at any time.(Some students may carry an unlocked pouch for specific personal or medical/health needs.)

Senior students (5th and 6th year) are expected to have their mobile phones powered off and not visible (unless required for specific learning and teaching, or medical/health reasons) for the duration of the school day, unless called upon for use by a staff member.

Where students are found with a visible mobile phone*, the mobile phone may be retained by the school office/year head/deputy principal/principal until the end of the school day/end of the next school day. Students may be required to check their phone into the office at the start of the school day and pick it up at the end of the day.

A second offence of this nature may require phones to be collected by parents/guardians, and continual misuse could lead to additional sanctions under the school's code of behaviour/conduct.

Senior students (5th & 6th years) may be issued with a personal mobile phone pouch if they continue with unauthorised mobile phone use. The student may be asked to produce this pouch when requested by a relevant member of staff.

**Medical/Health reasons may require visible use for a small amount of students.*

Responsibility

The school is **not responsible** for any lost, stolen, or damaged mobile phones. The safety and security of these devices are the responsibility of the students and their parents.

Overnight Storage of Devices: In cases of serious or repeated policy violations, a student's mobile phone may be retained by the school overnight and released only to a parent or guardian. Devices in the school's possession will be stored with reasonable precautions in a locked and secure location. The school is not an insurer of the device, and while we take these precautions, we cannot accept financial responsibility for loss, theft, or damage. Parents and students assume this risk by bringing a device to school.

Where parents/guardians need to contact students as **a matter of urgency** during the school day, this should be done through the school office **(01 8336984)**

Signed: 
Chairperson Board of Management

Signed: 
Principal

Date: 8/10/2025

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