

## Mobile Phones

Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones, i-pods or any device with camera facility or other recording devices to school except in exceptional circumstances approved by Senior Management. This is because of concerns relating to:

- Privacy and Child Protection issues arising from the increasing numbers of phones which enable both picture and video recording. We are informed that pictures can be taken without a person's knowledge before being transferred to other users on internet sites.
- Their use in cases of bullying where individuals encourage name calling either verbally or by text message.
- The potential for theft (on the way to or from school) of what can be an expensive item.
- Pressure to buy or to upgrade phones in order to "keep up with" one's peers.
- The potential to distract pupils from their studies
- Possible health risks.
- The time consuming nature of monitoring mobile phone use
- Lack of control over outgoing calls which may be made at any time for unnecessary or inappropriate purposes.

The office switchboard provide outgoing calls and offer pupils a line out in respect of changes of arrangement, transport problems, emergency calls etc. The switchboard will continue to monitor and pass on **emergency** messages from parents to their children.

**Mobiles will be confiscated upon discovery. Mobiles will be returned only to parents/carers or another designated adult.**

**N.B. If the mobile phone is found to be a picture phone the pupil will be suspended as this is a child protection issue.**

Children engaged in out of school visits may carry mobiles with the permission of the organisers. However, the school will not accept liability for theft or loss on these occasions.

**Examinations** - Parents should note that mobile phones are classified as "unauthorised items" by CCEA and other Examination Boards. A GCSE examination candidate is therefore in breach of the regulations if **he/she is in possession of a mobile phone (whether it is switched on or not) in an examination room.** Such an infringement of the regulations can mean disqualification from the current examination.