



## **Kilkenny School Project Mobile Phone and Internet Enabled Devices Policy**

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### **1. Introduction**

This policy outlines the use of mobile phones and smart wearable devices include smartwatches, fitness trackers, smart glasses, smart jewellery, and even smart clothing by pupils at Kilkenny School Project and incorporates the guidance set out in **Circular 0044/2025**, issued by the Department of Education. The policy has been developed in consultation with staff, parents, and the Student Council, and is intended to support the wellbeing, focus, and safety of all students during the school day.

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### **2. Rationale**

Mobile phones can serve useful purposes but may also present distractions and challenges within a school environment. This policy aims to:

- Minimise distractions in the classroom and school environment.
  - Support positive relationships and focused learning.
  - Promote responsible use of technology.
  - Comply with Department of Education Circular 0044/2025.
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### **3. Policy Statement**

Effective from 1/September/2025, students are **not permitted** to use mobile phones or smart devices during the school day. This includes school grounds, classrooms, and school-related activities, unless specifically approved by staff.

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### **4. Procedures for Mobile Phone Use**

- **Daily Phone Submission:**  
Students who bring a mobile phone to school must **hand it up to the teacher in the morning and it will be stored in a secure location.**
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- **Collection:**  
Phones may be collected by students **at home time only**. Phones not collected will be stored securely overnight. Once the phone is collected, it must be put into the schoolbag until off the school premises or after the off-site school activity.
- **Responsibility:**  
While every effort will be made to store phones securely, the school **accepts no responsibility for loss or damage** to personal devices.

**Exemptions** will only apply for medical, wellbeing or specific practical reasons, or for reasons related to pupils' special educational needs. The exemptions should allow pupils to access their phones for the specific reason outlined in the exemption, and not for general use. The examples below are not exhaustive and consideration will be needed on a case-by-case basis. Examples of some of the possible issues where exemptions are justified may include but are not limited to:

- Diabetes blood glucose monitor and/or insulin delivery mechanism.
- Blood pressure monitoring, fitness tracking under medical supervision.
- Seizure conditions where monitoring via a mobile phone app is needed.
- Mental health conditions when recommended by a health professional.
- Additional/special educational needs, for specific tasks relating to a student's visual impairment, hearing impairment, speech and language impairments.
- Access by an English as a Second Language (EAL) pupil to specific applications to support language.

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## 5. Exceptions

Students may bring a mobile phone to school **only with written parental permission**, stating the reason (e.g., for use after school). Even in these cases, the phone must be handed in as per the procedure above.

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## 6. Breaches of Policy

If a student does not follow the procedures outlined above:

- The phone may be confiscated and returned only to a parent/guardian.
- Repeated breaches may lead to further sanctions, and will be viewed as a serious breach of the KSP's Code of Behaviour.

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## 7. Communication with Parents

Parents/Guardians who need to contact their child during school hours must do so via the school office. Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remains the first point of contact and we can assure you that your child will be reached quickly, and

helped in any appropriate way. Students may not use mobile phones to communicate with parents during the school day.

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### **8. Review and Communication**

This policy will be reviewed annually and in light of any further guidance from the Department of Education. All stakeholders will be kept informed of any updates.

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**Approved by Board of Management:**

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Next Review Date: January 2027**

*Jenna Hanna*  
*Melny Cherie*  
*14/1/26.*

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