



# Coláiste Thulach Sheasta Mobile Phone Policy



## **Newport College Mobile Phone Policy to Restrict Use of & Access to Mobile Phones**



|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Policy Area</b>  | Schools   |
| <b>Document Reference Number</b>  | NEW/PHONE/11/0  |
| <b>Version No.</b>  | 2   |
| <b>Document Drafted by</b>  | Newport College   |
| <b>Date previous version:</b><br><br><b>Adopted by BOM</b><br><br><b>Ratified by TETB</b> | <br><br>24 November 2015<br><br>01 December 2015              |
| <b>Date Reviewed/Amended by School</b>  | 21 August 2025  |
| <b>Date Reviewed/Ratified by BOM</b>  | 25 March 2026   |
| <b>Date Noted/to be Noted by TETB</b>   | 26 May 2026   |
| <b>Policy Review Date</b>   | Annually  |
| <b>Date of Withdrawal of Obsolete Document</b>  | 25 March 2026<br><br>Document Ref. No. -<br><br>Version No. - |

## Contents

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Our Core Values .....   | 4 |
| Policy Statement .....  | 5 |
| Scope of Policy .....   | 5 |
| Objectives .....        | 5 |
| Issues .....            | 5 |
| Policy Guidelines ..... | 5 |
| Breach of Policy .....  | 6 |
| Communication .....     | 6 |
| Ratified on .....       | 6 |

## Our Core Values

### Excellence

Excellence means striving for the highest standards in education, training, and support. It is underpinned by the values of care, respect, community, and equality, and reflects the quality of outcomes, the richness of experiences, and the ambition of expectations for all members of our school community. *By reducing distractions of mobile phones, we foster a learning environment where students can perform and engage at their best.*

### Care

Care is about the wellbeing, safety, and overall welfare of everyone in our school community. It is shown through empathy, meaningful relationships, a strong sense of connection, and a culture of support and solidarity. *By implementing this policy, we help students develop healthy digital habits, protect them from unnecessary pressures and reduce the risk of cyberbullying and access to inappropriate content during school hours.*

### Respect

Respect involves recognising the dignity, identity, and rights of every individual. It is reflected in the quality of our relationships and in decision-making that values the feelings, aspirations, and diverse backgrounds of our school community. *By upholding this policy, we foster an understanding of mobile phone etiquette and educate for respectful and responsible use of their phone during school hours.*

### Equality

Equality means treating everyone fairly while recognising and celebrating the diversity of our school community. It involves creating inclusive spaces, targeting supports where they are most needed, and ensuring that every voice has value. *Through this policy we uphold equality by protecting the privacy rights of all students and staff and creating a space to feel safe, to learn and to grow in a phone free environment.*

### Community

Community is built on shared values, connection, and collaboration among students, staff, families, and the wider school environment. It thrives when everyone feels they belong, can contribute meaningfully, and are listened to. *By implementing this policy, we are building a culture where students engage in traditional social interactions at school break times making connections with their peers in our school community.*

# Mobile Phone Policy

## Policy Statement

This school is committed to fostering a safe, respectful, and focused learning environment. This policy was developed to align to our core values of excellence, respect, care, equality and community.

In line with **Circular 0045/2025**, the use of and access to personal mobile phones by students is restricted during the school day.

## Scope of Policy

This policy applies to all students enrolled in the school and covers the entire school day, including break, lunch times and supervised evening study.

## Objectives

- Minimise distractions during teaching and learning.
- Reduce the risk of cyberbullying and exposure to inappropriate content.
- To protect students and staff from potential harassment or bullying.
- Promote face-to-face social interaction and student wellbeing.
- To educate students on the responsible use of mobile phones.

## Issues

- Phones can disrupt effective teaching and learning, even when in silent mode, and irresponsible use can lead to child protection and data protection being compromised.
- They are valuable items that can be stolen.
- Their use can render pupils subject to potential bullying
- Camera functions can lead to child protection and data protection issues with regard to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images

## Policy Guidelines

- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones. The safety and security of mobile phones or devices is solely a matter for students/parents/guardians.
- Students who have a mobile phone at school must have the phone always switched off. It is the student's responsibility to ensure it is secure in the locker.
- Mobile phones may not be used during class time, breaks or lunchtime.
- Students who wish to contact home must do so through the office. Contacting home on your device is a breach of our Code of Behaviour and will result in detention.

## Breach of Policy

Students who disregard this policy and use a mobile phone on the school premises will be required to hand it over to a staff member on request. The phone will be left with the Deputy Principal.

**First breach:** Verbal warning and phone confiscation. The phone can be collected by a parent/guardian from the Deputy Principal or a designated staff member after the last class.

**Second Breach:** Phone will be confiscated for 24hours.

**Third Breaches:** Phone will be confiscated for one week.

**Repeated breaches:** Escalation to parents/guardians and possible disciplinary action.

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass, offend or threaten another person. As such, if action as sanctioned by the school in this regard is deemed ineffective, as with all such incidents, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the Guards.

*For medical reasons, a student may be allowed to use their phone to support their condition as necessary. Special permission must be sought from school management in these situations.*

## Communication

This policy will be communicated to students, parents/guardians, and staff.

It will be published on the school website and reviewed annually.

## Ratified on

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairperson, Board of Management)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Secretary, Board of Management)

Date: 25/03/2026