

# KILKENNY COLLEGE

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KILKENNY COLLEGE,  
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From the Principal:  
Simon Thompson, M.Ed. (TCD)

8<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you and your family are enjoying your Summer. At Kilkenny College we are continuing to prepare for the start of the new academic year commencing the week of the 26<sup>th</sup> August. Over the coming weeks we will contact all parents / guardians to update you on preparations and requirements for the 2019-20 school year. In this communication, I want to bring to your attention -

## **Revision to Policy regarding possession and use of Mobile Devices during the school day:**

I would also like to take the opportunity to bring to the attention of all parents/guardians a revision to our Policy regarding **the possession and use of mobile devices during the school day**. This Policy has been drafted by a sub-committee of staff including subject teachers, Year Heads and the senior management team. The revised Policy has been ratified by the Board of Management. The objectives of the revised Policy are threefold:

- To prioritise Teaching and Learning Time within class settings
- To encourage students to socialise with each other rather than interacting with a screen between classes and at break/lunch.
- To reduce the potential for inappropriate use of social media by students

The revised Policy regarding **the possession and use of mobile devices during the school day** is **attached** for your information and will be posted on the College website. On behalf the Board and staff of the College I ask for the support of all parents/guardians and students in implementing this revised policy which is for the better experience of all within the day-to-day life of school.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Thompson  
Principal  
Kilkenny College  
Secretary to the Board of Management



## **Mobile Device Possession and Use Policy: Kilkenny College**

Kilkenny College recognises that the use of technology and electronic equipment including mobile devices is increasingly part of everyday life. However, we are also conscious of the negative impact that excessive access to mobile devices is having on student and staff wellbeing and the potential damage they may contribute to normal social interaction.

This Mobile Device Usage Policy, with a focus on student and staff wellbeing, will come into effect from the start of the 2019-20 school year (Subject to Board of Management approval).

There will be a **No Visibility / No Carriage rule** in operation during the school day throughout the campus **(08.40-15.40 or 13.35 on Wednesday)** Use of Mobile Devices is not permitted in the Dining Halls at any time.

This means that it is not acceptable for a student to have their mobile device in use on the corridors, while moving around the campus but also that they will not be permitted to carry a mobile device anywhere on their person during the school day. Students may bring a device to school, but it should be kept in their Locker (Dorm Locker if a Boarding student).

Kilkenny College does not accept responsibility for the security of these devices.

***Use of mobile devices in a class setting are only permitted with the prior approval of the teacher and by prior arrangement by the teacher with the class.***

***Students with defined (I.E. Medical or educational needs), for whom access to, and use of, electronic media through the course of the school day is necessary, will not be prevented from continuing to avail of this facility.***

If a parent/guardian has an urgent reason to contact a student, or vice versa, this will be facilitated through the school Reception or a member of Duty staff.

Members of staff are requested to use discretion when using their own mobile devices for personal use during the school day.

There is no good reason that mobile devices should be in use during extra-curricular activities. The purpose of facilitating the use of electronic equipment in general in Kilkenny College is to enhance teaching and learning. All other use of such equipment is deemed non-essential or inappropriate.

In order to facilitate the use of electronic equipment for classroom-based activities a class sets of tablets is available for use by reservation. In addition, screens are strategically placed around the school for communication purposes.

Students need to understand that non-essential or inappropriate use of electronic equipment undermines teaching and learning and is at best an unnecessary distraction. At worst, such use is offensive and will result in sanctions.

**Sanctions** will be applied for any inappropriate use of mobile devices regardless of who owns the device.

If a mobile device is seen, heard or in use during any school activity which has not been authorised by a member of staff the following sanctions will apply:

The device will be confiscated immediately and placed into a padded envelope with the student's Name, Year, Date & Time, Teacher, Reason recorded on the label. This will be retained in one of the Deputy Principals offices and may only be collected by a parent/guardian within 2-8 school days depending on the nature of the incident which occurred.

Ratified by the Board of Management  
June 12<sup>th</sup> 2019