



Mobile Phones and Our Rights – Milne’s High School Policy



Please note that the use of the word child is an official term to cover all young people in school

Milne’s High School is an establishment which is committed to learning not only about the rights of the individuals but of the community as a whole. At Milne’s High School, we recognise that mobile phones, or similar devices, can play an important part in our education. We also recognise that using mobile phones in an irresponsible way can have an impact on both ourselves and others. At Milne’s High School we are committed to learning to use mobile phones responsibly in school.

Please note that students bring phones and similar devices/equipment to school entirely at their own risk. The school cannot accept responsibility for any damages, theft or loss of equipment.

The UNCRC

We feel the following rights from the UNCRC would apply to this policy:

Article 16- Right to Privacy. Every child has the right to privacy. The law should protect the child’s private life, including protecting children from unlawful attacks on their reputation.

Article 17- Access to information from the media. Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.

Article 29- Right to education. Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children’s dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

Article 29- Goals of Education. Education must develop every child’s personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child’s respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment.

Respecting the views of the child – this Mobile Policy was collated from the key points given by Student Voice Ambassadors

Environment

- To be used to be positive towards others
- Not to be used while walking
- No photograph or filming others without their permission
- The adults in the school have responsibility to protect all students in their care and must act on misuse of mobile phones by students
- The adults must also ensure that visitors and others in the school respect everyone’s right to privacy and make clear everyone’s responsibility with regards to taking photographs and filming

Class use

- All phones to be on silent or switched off
- To be used as appropriately directed by class teacher for educational purposes
- Period of ban for misuse

Corridor

- Music, where allowed, to be played through ear phones only
- Not to be used while walking in corridors or between classes – outside and social areas

Resolutions

- Mobile phone contract with parents and Guidance
- Removal of phone for rest of school day. Persistent offenders leave theirs in other location or do not bring to school for a period of time
- Regular reminders about digital footprint and the law when using phones to harass or intimidate
- Restorative approaches should be used to resolve conflicts regarding mobile phone use, including looking at how their actions have impacted others.

Students who regularly demonstrate that they are not able to use phones responsibly will be banned from using them in school. This can be reviewed at agreed intervals with parents and PTGs

Procedure for staff regulation

1. Staff clarify acceptable use in each lesson
2. Staff use professional judgement and use current behaviour management system as appropriate where use of a mobile phone causes disruption to the lesson
3. If a student’s use of mobile is disrupting lesson, teacher issues a warning. Should this continue then student phone is confiscated and left in main office who will maintain a log. Pupil collects at 3.40 pm Mon- Thur or 1.10 pm on a Friday
4. SEEMiS referral to PTG for those who consistently misuse mobile phone (in class or corridor)
5. PTGs can use contract, period of ban or alternative storage provision for phone while in school
6. Refer to SLT as appropriate- SLT to be contacted in the case of a major infraction or refusal of student to comply with the policy

This policy will be reviewed in May 2020