

## Mobile Phone Policy

The use of mobile phones during “work hours” at Fairholme is discouraged. Responsible and respectful use is encouraged at all times.

Girls who choose not to follow the reasonable direction of staff are breaching the College’s Code of Conduct (see Behaviour & Relationship Management Policy). Consequences relevant to their situation will occur as a result.

The consequence for sending indecent text messages is the same as for sending indecent emails or letters. [See Information Technology Facilities – Acceptable Use Policy]. It is deemed serious.

If a girl brings a phone with photographic capabilities to school, she may not take photos of other girls that create a breach of privacy. Also the consequence for sending indecent text messages is the same as for sending indecent emails or letters. It is deemed serious. [Please refer to I.T. Facilities – Acceptable Use Policy; Cybersafety Policy; Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy].

It is a criminal offence to use mobile phones to menace, harass or offend another person. In such cases the school may be obliged to put such matters in the hands of the police.

If an emergency situation should arise, (usually only in serious health or delicate custodial situations), the mobile phone may be left with the Head of Fairholme Junior or the Head of House in the Middle and Senior Schools. She will contact the student if required. The College Office and (after hours) the Boarding House are always available for students to make calls in an emergency.

The importance of boarders’ communication with home is recognised, therefore mobile phones are allowed in the Boarding House under the following conditions:

- ◇ Responsibility for the security of the phone remains with the owner.
- ◇ Each girl is to have only 1 phone whilst in residence.
- ◇ Girls are to record their phone number with the Head of Boarding.
- ◇ Phones cannot be used during school, homework times or after lights out.
- ◇ Girls in Years 6 to 10 are required to hand their phones to the staff member on duty before they go to dinner and they may collect the phones after school.
- ◇ Girls in Year 9 and 10 have some access to their mobile phone after prep and before lights out.

**Public discussion continues about the safety or otherwise of mobile phones. By circulating this mobile phone policy the College makes no comment about their safety, nor does it recommend the use of mobile phones.**

As such this policy is reviewed annually.

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