SCOIL MHUIRE KANTURK

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Implementation Framework & Regulations — Academic Year 2026/2027 onwards

1. Preamble & Rationale

Scoil Mhuire Kanturk is committed to providing a safe, secure, and focused learning environment for all members of the school community where distractions are minimised. In order to support student mental well-being and protect the classroom as a sanctuary for learning, the school is implementing a mandatory mobile phone pouch system effective from the start of the 2026/27 academic year.

By placing phones in a secure, signal-blocking pouch, we remove the temptation of "silent checking," encourage genuine face-to-face social interactions, and eliminate the risk of unapproved recording or digital conflict during the school day.

1:1 Device Initiative: Beginning in the 2026/27 academic year, all students will have access to their own personal 1:1 learning device, purchased by parents/guardians from the school's approved supplier. Because these dedicated educational devices are subject to significant school monitoring and control, mobile phones are no longer required/necessary for educational use.

In normal circumstances, if a student and parent/guardian wish to make contact during the school day, this is facilitated by ringing the school secretary on the landline **(029) 50807**. It remains the school's preference that students leave their mobile phones at home.

The use of phones for texting, photographic purposes, recording purposes, making voice calls, or downloading material is strictly forbidden during the school day. Recording or taking photograph(s) of any member of the school community without their knowledge and consent is strictly prohibited.

In exceptional circumstances, a student may be given permission by the Principal/Deputy Principal to carry or use a mobile phone during the school day (e.g., for essential medical monitoring)

2. The Rule & Daily Routine

To ensure compliance, the following rules apply to all students upon entry to the school grounds:

- **Pouching Requirement:** Before entering the school building, all students must power off their mobile phone, place it into their designated school-issued pouch, and securely lock it. Each student will be provided with **one phone pouch** at the beginning of the academic year, the **cost of which is covered by the school**. Students are solely responsible for their pouch and must have it with them every day. If a pouch is lost, tampered with, damaged, or returned in poor condition, the student must purchase a replacement.
- **Morning Inspection:** The pouched phone must be presented to the student's Year Head for inspection during morning assembly each day at 8:40 am.

- **School Day Compliance:** The phone must remain powered off and locked securely inside the pouch for the entire duration of the school day. Students are responsible for keeping their pouch safe and undamaged.

2A. Senior Students and Lunchtime Off-Campus Privilege

Scoil Mhuire Kanturk recognises that Senior students may have permission to leave the school grounds during the lunchtime break. To accommodate this, the following rules apply to off-campus phone usage:

- **Unlocking for Lunch:** Senior students are permitted to unlock their phone pouches upon leaving the school grounds at lunchtime.
- **Responsibility Off-Campus:** While off-campus, students are expected to use their phones responsibly and in accordance with the general principles of the school's Digital Citizenship and Acceptable Use Policy.
- **Re-pouching Requirement:** Before re-entering the school building after lunch, students must power off their phones, place them back inside their pouch, and securely lock it.
- **Post-Lunch Compliance:** The pouch must remain locked for the duration of the afternoon classes. A Year Head or member of staff may conduct spot-checks as students return from lunch. Failure to re-pouch before entering school grounds will automatically trigger the sanction ladder below.

3. Procedures and Sanctions for Non-Compliance

If a student breaches the rule—by having an unpouched phone, using a phone without explicit permission, or failing to present their pouched phone at the 8:40 am assembly—the following progressive procedures and sanctions apply:

First Breach

- The phone will be confiscated immediately and handed into the main office.
- The incident will be logged on TYRO, and the student's Year Head will be informed.
- The student may collect the phone from the office at the end of that school day (3:45 pm).

Second Breach

- The phone will be confiscated immediately and handed into the main office.
- The incident will be logged on TYRO, and both the Year Head and the parent/guardian will be informed.
- The student will be issued a school detention.
- The student may collect the phone from the office at the end of that school day (3:45 pm).

Third Breach

- The phone will be confiscated immediately and handed into the main office.
- The incident will be logged on TYRO, and the Year Head will be informed.
- **The student will be issued two school detentions.**
- The phone **will not** be handed back directly to the student. A parent/guardian must come to the school office to collect the phone.

Further Breaches

Any subsequent offenses, or deliberate damage and tampering with a school-issued phone pouch, will be treated as a serious breach of discipline. Further breaches will follow the school's standard **Code of Behaviour**, which may include the accumulation of behaviour points, detentions, formal parental meetings, and suspension.

4. Policy Implementation & Governance

This policy was approved by the Board of Management on:

Signed: Padraic O Conaill
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: June 2026

Signed: Ciaran Queeney
Principal / Secretary to the Board