



MOBILE PHONE POLICY  
September 2025  
St.Ultan's Special School  
19216E

### **Introduction**

The policy on mobile phones was developed in September '25 following the publication of Circular 0044/2025.

The policy is intended to support St. Ultan's Special School in:

1. Provide clarity for all members of the school community, pupils, parents/guardians, and staff, about using mobile phones in St. Ultan's Special School.
2. Improve the learning environment in schools by reducing distractions
3. Reduce the risk of cyberbullying and access to inappropriate content during school hours
4. Increase traditional social interactions between pupils and students during break times at school.

Excessive phone use and screen time generally can have a detrimental impact on pupils' concentration and academic performance (Circular 0044/2025).

**This policy fully prohibits the use of mobile phones during the school day.**

Pupils may use their phones while travelling to and from school (on the bus); however, they must hand their phones to the class teacher/SNA as soon as they enter the classroom each morning. The teacher will safely store phones during the day and return them to the pupils at 2:25 p.m.

### **Exemptions:**

1. Pupils who use mobile phones as an augmentative communication device or to monitor medical issues, are permitted during the school day, including:
2. Blood glucose /deliver insulin
3. Blood pressure monitoring
4. Seizure conditions, where monitoring via an app is necessary
5. Visual impairment, hearing impairment, and speech and language impairments
6. EAL support (English as a second language).

### **Implementing the policy:**

Pupils are advised that mobile phones may not be used for any purpose during the school day. This rule applies to all school activities, on or off the school premises

1. If a pupil brings a mobile phone to school, it must be handed to the class teacher/SNA as soon as the pupil enters the room.
2. It cannot be stored in a school bag or anywhere else; it must be handed to a staff member.
3. If a pupil uses a mobile phone on school premises without permission, they will be required to hand it over to a member of staff, and their parents/guardians will be asked to collect it from the school office.
4. The only exception to this is with the approval of a teacher.
5. If a staff member suspects that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, pupils will be required to hand over the phone to a teacher, and parents will be asked to collect it from the school.
6. Pupils who take unauthorised photos or recordings of other students or staff members will be sanctioned according to the Code of Behaviour, and their parents/guardians will be informed.
7. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.
8. The safety and security of mobile phones is the responsibility of pupils/parents/guardians.
9. The school accepts no responsibility for pupils who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school.

**Where a member of staff has reasonable grounds to believe that a pupil has a mobile phone in breach of this policy, the pupil may be asked to show the contents of their pockets or belongings. While pupils cannot be physically compelled to comply, refusal to cooperate will be treated as non-compliance with the school's Code of Behaviour.**

### **Further supports and resources:**

1. Webwise (Webwise Youth Advisory Panel)
2. Oide (Teacher Education Support Service)
3. NEPS (National Educational Psychology Service)

### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

**All staff** share in the coordination and implementation of this policy.

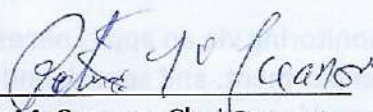
#### **Implementation and Review**

This policy, as set out above, is to be implemented from September 2025

This policy is monitored on an ongoing basis and amendments will be made as deemed necessary.

Ratified by the BoM on: 22/09/2025

Signed:

  
Patrick McCreanor Chairperson