



**Holy Faith Secondary School
Belgrove Road
Clontarf
Dublin 3**

**Telephone: 01 8331507
01 8332754**

12th September 2024

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

We have been impressed by the start our students have made to this first term of the school year, many of them have stepped up and shown good focus, attitude and effort. This year, in line with many schools and best practice, we are making some important changes to our mobile phone policy. These changes will be reviewed throughout the year.

We understand that mobile phones and technology are now a key part of modern life. Most students own a mobile phone with access to the internet and from a safety perspective, many students carry a mobile phone to contact home before or after school.

However, mobile phones can lead to several problems in school such as filming, disruption to class and inappropriate usage of the internet and social media. The temptation to use their mobile phone is too great for some students and this has resulted in the school having to put sanctions in place.

From Monday 16th September we will be taking a more robust approach to dealing with the inappropriate use of phones in school. We will talk to all students and staff in advance of this.

1st, 2nd and 3rd year students should be aware that, for the period of time they are in school, their phones should be switched off and in their bag. Phones may not be used at any stage during the school day by 1st year students. With limited access to school devices, 2nd & 3rd year students may use their phone for CBA research, under teacher supervision only. Please note, that a mobile phone is not necessary for this, so students can leave their phone at home.

Students from TY, 5th & 6th Year may use their phone under the supervision of the class teacher in pursuit of learning. Phones may not be used at any other time during the school day and should be switched off and in their bag, including at breaktime and lunch time.

Students should ensure that they have their fob to collect their lunch at the Food Village. A small number of students in the school use their mobile phone for medical reasons, parents should provide written confirmation of this.

If a member of staff does see a phone then they can confiscate this, we will keep the phone in the office and then the student can collect this at the end of the day from the main office. If a student's phone is confiscated a second time, a parent must collect the phone and if there are further confiscations, the student will have after-school detention.

Our aim is to ensure that school is a safe and distraction free environment for our students to learn and grow in. We encourage pupils to talk and socialise with their friends in real life at breaks and lunchtimes. If you need to contact your child during the school day, please contact the office and a message will be passed to them. Similarly, if your daughter needs to contact a parent, this must be done through the main office or year head.

We would encourage parents to control the apps on their daughter's phone and to check phone usage and screen time at the end of the day.

Thank you in advance for your support on this matter.

Kind regards

Mary Molloy
Deputy Principal