



## PATRICIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (P.E.D'S.) POLICY



**Personal Electronic Devices** includes **mobile phones, mp3, iPods, iPads, tablets** or any device **capable of recording video or audio or sending messages)**

In keeping with our Mission Statement the following policy is founded on maintaining a safe, nurturing environment where the personal dignity and rights of the school community are preserved and the reputation of the school is safe guarded. The school supports the use of new technology but will not tolerate any abuse of this technology. The misuse of a Personal Electronic Device in class or in recreation time could constitute a breach of safety and security for the pupils, teachers, ancillary staff and others within the school, as well as having the potential to cause undue anxiety for parents or other recipients of relayed conversations or messages. The P.E.D. policy operates in conjunction with our existing Acceptable User Policy (AUP) and Distance Learning Policy (DLP).

For purposes of this procedural directive, "personal electronic device" means any device that a student is in possession of which electronically communicates, sends, receives, stores, reproduces or displays voice, video and/or text communication or data. These include, but are not limited to *mobile* phones, music/media players, gaming devices, tablets and laptop computers.

### Section 1

Mobile phones and Personal Electronic Devices must be switched off and not visible at the following times except with the express permission of a teacher.

8.55am to 10.56am

11.15am to 1.11pm

2.04pm to 4.00pm

4.30pm to 7.30pm if you are on the roll for study.

Breaches of the above times will result in the following:

#### First occasion

The P.E.D. will be confiscated and given to Senior Management. The P.E.D. will be handed back to the student at 4.00pm with a warning.

#### Second occasion

The P.E.D. will be confiscated and must be collected by the parent or guardian of the student. The parent or guardian is informed that should this happen again, the privilege of having a P.E.D. in school will be removed.

#### Third occasion

The P.E.D. will be confiscated and must be collected by the parent or guardian of the student. The privilege of having the P.E.D. for the current academic year is removed and will be reviewed the following year.

\* Failure to hand over the P.E.D. when requested is a Category B offence and will be dealt with as per the Code of Behaviour. (failure to follow a reasonable

## Section 2

This refers to

- 2.1 Taking of pictures, recording or videoing are strictly forbidden on school grounds at any time or on any school related activity without the express permission of a teacher.
- 2.2 Making abusive or threatening calls, uploading material to social media sites or sending or posting messages or texts of this nature to any member of the school community at any time is strictly forbidden and will be categorised as bullying as per our anti-bullying policy.
  - a. The student who possesses a personal electronic device shall be solely responsible for its care.
  - b. Student possession of personal electronic devices on all school grounds, including athletic fields, and school buses, at school-sponsored activities and while the student is under the supervision of teachers/staff shall be permitted. All students may use these devices on school grounds before school begins and after school ends.
  - c. These devices shall be kept out of sight and powered off during the school day and during any school-sponsored activity meeting or practice held on Patrician School property. The requirement that personal electronic devices be turned off may not apply in the following circumstances when the student obtains prior approval from the principal or his/her designee:
    1. The student has a special medical circumstance for self or family member.
    2. The student is using the device for an educational or instructional purpose with the teacher's permission and supervision.
  - d. Student use of personal electronic devices shall be strictly prohibited in areas including, but not limited to locker rooms, classrooms & toilets.
  - e. Students shall not use a personal electronic device on school property or at a school sponsored activity to access and/or view internet websites that are otherwise blocked to students at school. blocked sites include, but are not limited to, social networking sites.
  - f. Student use of personal electronic devices that disrupt the instructional day may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the personal electronic device as outlined in section one. When a personal electronic device is confiscated (on a second or third occasion), it shall only be released and/or returned to the student's parent/legal guardian. It is the student's parent/legal guardian's responsibility to retrieve the device according to the school procedures.
- 2.3 Uploading to the internet or sharing video or photographic footage of a fight that occurs on school grounds, outside the school as the students are coming to or from school or at any time or place that has its origin in school related incidents or activities or in any way brings the school into disrupt, is strictly forbidden.

The board of management has ratified the policy on Personal Electronic Devices.

In relation to Section 2 of the Policy the Board directs the Principal to do the following.

1. Suspend the student for a minimum of one day.
2. The Student and his parents must be made aware of the contents of the Statement below and the parents sign it.
3. If the Principal, having considered all aspects of the situation including the views of the victim and his family, may feel the matter should be brought to the Board's attention immediately then he is directed to do so.

Ratified by the Board of Management on: 16/12/21

Signed (Proposed): Gráinne Morrison

Signed (Seconded): Lee Smyth

Signed (Principal): Pat Moloney

Signed (Chairperson): Pat O'Leary