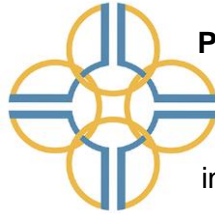


PARKHALL INTEGRATED COLLEGE

Steeple Road
Antrim
BT41 1AF
Tel: **02894 468556**



Principal: Mr N D Owen BA (Hons) PGCE MA

www.parkhallintegratedcollege.org

info@parkhallintegratedcollege.antrim.ni.sch.uk

17th April 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

At Parkhall Integrated College, we accept and understand that personal mobile phones and tablets are often given to students by their parents/guardians to ensure their safety and personal security, whilst students may wish to bring their personal devices to school for a variety of other reasons. As a school, we understand the benefits such devices offer, as well as how the use of mobile phones in school can sometimes jeopardise the learning environment. We must therefore strike a balance between ensuring personal safety and wellbeing and maintaining an appropriate learning environment for our students.

We are therefore writing to remind you of our existing approach to mobile phones, which remains unchanged. It is our preference that phones are not brought into the college at all, as it has been shown that mobile phones can and often do lead to several problems in school such as bullying, filming, disruption to lessons and inappropriate usage of the Internet and social media leading to potential safeguarding issues. However, students may carry a mobile phone only on the condition that it is never used, seen or heard, unless directed by a member of staff. This includes break and lunchtime (sixth-form students may use their mobile phones at break and lunchtime in the sixth-form social area).

Any student seen using their mobile phone during school hours, including break and lunchtime, will be asked to put the phone away. Should this continue to be an issue, the mobile phone will be confiscated. The phone will then be returned to the student at the end of the school day from the school office. If students repeatedly fail to comply with any of these expectations, parents/guardians may be asked to collect phones from the college.

We appreciate that there are sometimes life events or situations where a student may feel they need contact with home during the day. If parent/guardians need to contact your child during the school day, please telephone the office, who will be able to pass any urgent messages on to your child. Similarly, if students need to contact their parents/guardians during the college day, they should go to their head of year or the office to use the school phone.

As part of our partnership with our families, we ask the support of parents/guardians in mitigating the risks that social media can cause. Please monitor and discuss your child's social media use on their phone. The use of smart phones has been shown to have a significant detrimental impact on students' wellbeing and mental health. It is recommended that parents/guardians should take a proactive approach to social media management, including time limits, parental monitoring and supervision, and ongoing discussions about social media.

As always, we thank you for your continued support. If you would like any advice or further information, please contact the college.

Yours faithfully,

Mr N D Owen
Principal

***Our Vision: To provide a caring learning environment where
we all feel valued and respected and are empowered to reach our full potential***