



Dunamase College is a co-educational multi-denominational second level school. Dunamase College/Coláiste Dhún Másc is committed to the LOETB ethos of Care, Community, Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Respect and Equality.

Vision:

Our vision is one where our students are not only challenged to achieve their highest academic outcomes but to grow personally, to contribute positively to their community and to make their own profound impact in the world.

Mission Statement:

- Create a community where all members feel valued and respected.
- Being an academic ambitious school students are challenged above and beyond any exam curriculum.
- Nurturing intellectual curiosity, enables students not just to excel in exams and achieve their education goals, but to develop an enduring love of learning.
- Through our outstanding the range of co and extra-curricular activities along with partnership opportunities with the community, students develop character, independence, creativity and the ability to communicate and motivate others.

Dunamase College/Coláiste Dhún Másc Mobile Phone and Digital Device Policy:

This Mobile Phone Policy should be read in conjunction with the Code of Behaviour Policy. It is also subject to updates and guidance issued by the Department of Education.

Rationale:

It is important that the new technologies developed and used in our school are used appropriately and that they are not used to compromise the learning environment in any way. Therefore, the school authorities adopt the following policy:

- The use of mobile phones/electronic music devices is prohibited in the school building/campus at all times. Where a student brings a mobile phone to school, it must be switched off and kept in a locker/or safe place during school times. It may not be used for any purpose in the school. If parents need to contact their child, they may do so through the school office at info@dunamasecollege.ie or on (057)8664696. Students who need to contact home, may do so by asking their year head, deputy principal, or the secretary to make a phone call for them.
- Students in contravention of the above, will have the phone including the sim card, confiscated and returned to the student after school and will complete a Friday after school detention. On the second time a student uses a mobile phone, the phone will only be returned to the parent at the end of that school day. If the parent cannot collect the phone, on the first instance, the phone will be returned but other

sanctions will apply. If the issue persists it will be considered a serious breach of the Code of Behaviour and further sanctions will apply and will no longer have the privilege of bringing their phone to school.

- Where a recurring breach of the policy occurs, it will be dealt with under the Code of Behaviour. Additional sanctions will ensue.
- There have been a number of incidences in Irish schools where mobile phones and electronic music devices have been used to bully students and/or undermine teachers. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the Gardaí in such incidents.
- Any inappropriate texting/tweeting or communications between or about members of the school community is forbidden at any time.
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones or any digital devices. The safety and security of mobile phones is wholly a matter for students/parents/guardians. We would encourage students to leave their phones at home.
- Mobile phones cannot under any circumstances be taken into examination centres, including in house and end of term examinations. Breach of this rule may lead to invalidation of that examination and potentially other examinations.
- In the case of trips, visits and other off site activities, their use is only allowed under the supervision and agreement of the teachers in charge.
- Any unauthorised or inappropriate audio, visual or digital recording of staff/students of Dunamase College/Coláiste Dhún Másc on any device in any capacity is strictly prohibited. Violation of these policies by any student is a serious offence and an appropriate sanction will be administered. Note: This policy applies to any similar electronic device to the two specified above e.g. Ipads, smart watches, laptops etc.

This policy was ratified on 16/05/2025
Seamus D. Neill

Chairperson to the Board of Management

References:

- National Council for Special Education (NCSE) guidelines on inclusive education.
- National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) frameworks and guidelines.
- Relevant Department of Education (DES) circulars applicable to this policy area.