Rationale behind this policy:

The Department of Education and Training does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools. Consequently neither the school nor DE&T will pay for any loss or damage to such property.
Mobile phones are, as a general rule, unnecessary and can be disruptive to the routine of the school.
Mobile phones give rise to the possibility of inappropriate contact being made by persons with school students or vice-versa.
Where a parent/guardian needs to make urgent contact with their child, this may be done through the general office.

Policy

In general, students may not bring mobile phones to school.
Where there is a legitimate reason for bringing a mobile phone to school, for example where contact must be made with a parent after school, they are to be left at the general office and collected at the end of the school day.
The exception to this policy is during school camps and excursions, where students are informed in advance. In such cases:

The teacher in charge may insist upon certain rules in relation to their use.
Mobile phones must be used with courtesy, respect and consideration for others.
In-phone cameras must not be used anywhere a normal camera would be considered inappropriate (e.g. in change rooms or toilets) and may not be used to photograph any person without their consent.

Action will be taken under the school’s bullying and harassment policy against any student who uses a mobile phone to threaten or harass another student.
Mobile phones brought to school in contravention of this policy will be confiscated and must be collected by student’s parent/guardian.
Students repeatedly in breach of this policy will be dealt with under the student code of conduct.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on: February 2010