Mobile Phones and Internet Safety

Mobile Phones

It is school policy that students are not permitted to have a mobile phone on their person at school. Many parents want their daughters to have a mobile phone to use before and after school for safety reasons. Killester College is not responsible for any lost or stolen phones/laptops. Students who are seen using their phones during school hours without teacher permission will have their mobile phones confiscated and returned to them at the end of the school day.

Tips for Students

Mobile phones are no longer a way to make calls when you're out and about. You can send text messages via SMS, pictures, sounds, video via MMS (multi-media messaging) and chat, as well as surf the net. Many mobile phones include cameras; sound recording capabilities and can also track where you are. Whilst most content and services will be suitable for everyone, some may be unsuitable – even dangerous.

The "always on" nature of mobile services means that these risks such as bullying, people making inappropriate contact, and the chance that you may access unsuitable content are always present.

Do you really know who you are talking to?

Keep secrets – don't tell anyone your personal details. This includes your name, address, your current location, credit card details and school. Be very careful about giving out your phone number too.

Remember – the person you meet in a chat room may not be who they say they are. If you give out personal information or send

pictures, the person you send them to may not be the only person to see them.

Take someone with you. If you want to meet someone you haven't met so far in person, ask a parent or another adult to go with you and always meet in a public place, preferably during the day.

Say no! Don't accept any offers that seem too good to be true – they probably are.

Watch out! Stay aware of what's going on around you and guard your privacy. Remember, if you can take pictures of everything and

everyone with your phone, so can other people... and you may not want to be the subject of their photos.

Be considerate – only send the kinds of messages and pictures you would be happy to receive.

Tell – if someone sends you nasty or bullying messages or asks you to do something that makes you uncomfortable, don't respond. Make a note of the number it came from, and the date and time of the call, save the message and tell your parents.

Internet/Chat Smart – Meeting people online might be fun but remember that the people you meet online might not be who they say they are. You should always think carefully before you give out your name, phone number, address or any other personal details. This includes the name of your school, your photo, and any other personal information about your friends and family.

Never post such information in a chat room or somewhere lots of people may see it. Always keep your password a secret.

Webcam – Only tell real-life friends or family you have a webcam. Don't show it on your online ID. If someone asks you to do or watch something you find upsetting or wrong, say NO! Close the conversation straight away and tell your parents.

Social Networking – This describes a variety of services like YouTube, Snapchat, Discord and Facebook. Social networking sites are a great way to stay in touch with your friends and family. You can post information about yourself and display photos, tell everyone what you've been up to and play games. There are dangers. Bullying, people making inappropriate contact, identity theft, scams and any possible exposure to adult content can make these places very risky.

Keep personal information a secret – Make sure you don't put any personal information on your file. This includes your phone number, personal email address, home or school addresses, sports teams or the name of your school. Be careful when you post photos that they don't include any of this information either.

It's public – remember that you may feel that you are just talking to friends, but the whole world could be tuning in. Keep an eye on what's being posted and guard your privacy! Don't post photos that you might not want strangers to see.

Think twice – posts to blogs and profiles can stay forever. Your parents and future employers may end up seeing it.

Be considerate – be yourself but play it nice – Only post comments you would be happy to receive yourself. Don't post photos of other people without their permission. Remember, when you post photos you might be hurting the privacy of your friends too.

Tell a trusted adult – Don't respond if someone send you a nasty or bullying messages or asks you to do something that makes you feel uncomfortable. Instead, tell your parents, teachers or another adult you can trust.

For more information on Cyber Safety, visit – https://www.thinkuknow.org.au/

To report a crime contact: Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000

To report electronic crime such as identity theft, internet bullying: Visit: www.afp.gov.au OR https://www.esafety.gov.au/