

The Pupil's Committee, after the necessary consultation with its constituency, wishes to express the following opinions concerning a possible new mobile phone policy;

a) We wish to stress that the students, and thus the Pupils Committee is **inherently against** any proposal that limits the freedom of the students. However, we are aware that we will be voted out after the eventual voicing of the opinion thereof, and as such we are also proposing a few suggestions.

b) After some internal discussion, we have concluded that if this policy applies to students, then it should apply to teachers as well. After all, the studies conclude that mobile phone use has a detrimental effect on concentration and work – the same also applies to teachers. **We encourage the policy to be universally applicable not only to students, but to teachers as well. The same way teachers use their phones for work, so do students.**

c) We need to prevent unenforceability from arising. A complete bus-to-bell policy would be unenforceable, and even if it were not, students would go to the locations in which mobile phone use is permitted. **We encourage enforceability by decreeing that the locations list should not be a one of allowed locations, but one of forbidden locations.**

d) We strongly suggest ensuring GDPR compliance relating to taking pictures of individuals. **Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that taking pictures of the school premises (of buildings, etc.) should be by Belgian law legal and should not be proposed to be banned by the regulations.** There was a case a few years ago, wherein a student took a picture of a toilet in school that had been blown up by petards and was punished for it as an “accomplice”.

e) **We suggest the inclusion of a clause that binds the administration and teachers to ensuring that an environment in which digital learning is not only possible, but actively encouraged.**

The student body would support a compromise in which mobile phones are banned in certain locations, but only if they are equally banned for teachers; these locations should be ones in which it is proven that mobile phone use could be harmful to academic performance (ex. classrooms unless the teacher permits their use, for which there already are rules or directly in the vicinity of classrooms) or distracting to public order (ex. at the bottom of stairs). This de facto excludes all open spaces, the cafeteria, canteen and the libraries.