



Diocese in Europe

Communications Support

Taking video on your phone



Landscape or portrait?

Consider what you are going to use your video for before deciding on which way to film it. Consider what you are filming, and who will watch it. People viewing on a mobile are more likely to watch vertical (portrait) videos for longer. If shooting for social media only, then vertical is probably best (for Reels/Stories etc)

However, the standard professional approach remains to shoot in landscape. Think TV screens and desktops.

Do you sound good?

So many recordings can be spoiled by bad audio. If you are speaking or interviewing on your video, make sure you use an external mic. These vary in cost of course but ideally, just grab a lapel mic and simply plug it into your mobile's headphone socket.

The focus of the story

Don't forget to be creative too. The rule of thirds works well. A good set up for interviewing a person is to have them on an outer 'square' looking into the middle so that you have room for text. Whatever the background, just remember to ensure it doesn't distract from whatever you are filming. It should only add to and provide context.

Zoom in with your feet as much as you can - Zooms on phones vary but it's always good to be as near as you can to your subject.

Shooting and Editing

Keep the mobile close to you and keep it steady. If you are interviewing you will find a beastgrip or handheld tripod is useful.

There are a huge number of apps that can make editing very easy. Try CapCut or iMovie.

Store them on cloud storage for ease of transfer

Use captions whenever you can. Some platforms such as Facebook have optionally AI captions but always check them.

Turn Airplane Mode On

It doesn't add anything to your video if someone phones you in the middle of recording. This simple trick means no weird beeps or notifications spoiling your video.