



St Mary's College

Mobile Phone and Device Usage

Rationale

Consistent 'connection' and use of social media has been identified as the number one cause of mental health concerns and depression in teenagers in Australia (Reference to study)

The intention of this policy is to provide for a learning environment at St Mary's College where students are responsible digital citizens and technology is used age appropriately and successfully as a communication and learning tool.

We believe as a school community in the value of true and authentic relationship. To this end we desire to provide our students with an environment and skill set to initiate, nurture and maintain authentic relationships through both interpersonal and digital means.

Guidelines

K – 2 Students in these years should not bring mobile devices to school without the permission of the Director of Junior School.

3 – 6 Students with mobile phones are to hand them to their teacher before the commencement of the school day and collect them at the end of the school day.

7 – 9 Students with mobile phones are to switch off their phone and lock it securely in their school locker before Homeroom. Phones can be checked once at recess and lunchtime while standing near the student's locker, for urgent messages.

10 – 12 Students with mobile phones in these years are responsible for the use and safety of their own mobile devices during the school day. Mobile devices must be switched off during lessons and when stored in lockers. Phones may be used in common rooms only and not in general use areas of the school. Phones should not be used in any manner or place that is disruptive to the normal routines of the College or to other people.

- In the use of mobile devices courtesy, consideration of and respect for others is always paramount.
- Mobile devices are brought and kept at school entirely at their owner's risk.
- Students with phones may be given permission by the classroom teacher to utilise them in certain circumstances. At the discretion of the teacher, students may be directed to bring their mobile phones to certain classes or off-campus supervised activities.
- Any student who is feeling unwell at school and needs to go home must arrange this through their teacher and the Student Services Office.



- Students who need to call their parents/carers during the day on urgent matters need to report to the Student Services Office counter.
- Parents/carers needing to contact students during school hours must call the College Office.

Breaches of these guidelines

Non-observance or breaches of these guidelines will have direct and cumulative consequences.

- For a first breach there will be a rule reminder (SEQTA Note). Parents will receive this notification.
- A second breach will result in the storing of the phone at the Student Services Office for collection at the end of the school day (SEQTA Note). Parents will receive this notification.
- A third breach will result in the taking of the device to the school office and collection can only be made by a parent or carer (SEQTA Note). Parents will receive this notification.
- Subsequent offences will be dealt with directly by the Deputy Principal or Principal and may result in the student having to leave the phone at the Student Services Office before 8.30am and the collection after 3.15pm each day.

(Reviewed by CLT 12/11/ 2018)