



St Mary's College

Mobile Phone and Device Usage Guidelines

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 these Guidelines 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.

iPads and phones are not to be used before school once students are in the school grounds. After school, phones are only to be used for communicating with parents and carers.

7 – 10 Students with mobile phones are to switch off their phone and lock it securely in their school locker before Homeroom and are not to be accessed until 3.15pm (Bell to Bell)

11 – 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. Urgent calls may be made at recess or lunchtime in the Mary Morgan Wing corridor.

7 – 12 Students are not to use laptops at recess and lunchtime and study lines for entertainment. Laptops may be used for homework and assignments in the Student Resource Centre at recess and lunchtime. Students in Year 11/12 may also use laptops for homework and assignments in the Common Room and Seminar Room.



(Students who have smart watches must have them on “Airplane” mode. The use of smart watches is the same as for mobile phones.)

- In the use of mobile devices courtesy, consideration of and respect for others are 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.
- 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 February 2020 (Jan 2021)