



## MOBILE PHONE POLICY

*We are very much aware that the mobile phone features significantly in our students' lives and the advances in technology make it far more than just a phone. The school understands that this technology is part of our world and that parents often support their children having mobile phones for safety reasons. Student responsibility for the appropriate use of personal electronic devices at school is required at all times, and must be in accordance and reflect our iCARE values. Listening to music, watching videos, playing games, accessing the internet, taking photos or videos, talking or texting during class disrupts teaching and learning. This mobile phone policy aims to promote a safe environment for both teachers and students. The following policy relates to mobile phones, however, any device that has access to social media, and has the potential to take photographs is included in this policy.*

*As technology rapidly changes, teachers must manage both a mobile phone's potential as a learning technology and the difficulties phones can present in schools. A phone's fashion status and cost make them attractive to thieves. As electronic devices provide instant communication, students may text, call or access internet sites at inappropriate times which can distract from learning. Camera and video capabilities pose an additional problem as they can be used to invade others' privacy or they may be used to display or distribute illegal material. Our school policy ensures that phones are to be switched off and out of sight in class.*

***Phones are not to be used in any class or study periods unless they are being used for specific class work or for the support of class activities with explicit permission given by the teacher. We acknowledge that there can be legitimate educational reasons for using personal electronic devices in class and we will continue to encourage the appropriate use at the discretion and direction of the teacher.***

### **What Students Need to Know and Do:**

1. Mobile phones and other personal devices, (including: IPODs, music devices, earphones) must be **out of sight** and **turned off** during **all lesson times (including home group time), assemblies** and **other school functions**.
2. Students may access their phones/devices at recess and lunchtimes, before and after school only.
3. Students are not to access social networking sites at school as per the ICT Acceptable Use and Cyber Safety Agreement.
4. Students who choose to bring mobile phones or other devices to school must accept sole responsibility for their care. As with any other personal items, the school cannot take any responsibility for phones that are lost, damaged or stolen.

### **What the Classroom Teacher Needs to Know and Do:**

*Teaching and Learning programs are being interrupted through students texting, students checking social media updates, and through the ringing of phones during lesson times. These interruptions have a significant impact on the teaching environment in all classrooms. The use of phones during lessons also reflects a student's inattention to study. Teachers have the responsibility to ensure a safe and productive classroom environment, free from the interference and distraction created by mobile phones and other electronic devices.*

1. The teacher has the right to confiscate any device, for any breach of the mobile phone policy.
2. The teacher will place the mobile device in an envelope and deliver it to the front office where the student can collect it at the end of the day.

### **What Parents/Caregivers Need to Know and Do:**

1. Please do not phone or send text messages to your son/daughter during the times that they are in lessons. If urgent contact needs to be made then contact the Front Office and they will pass the information on.
2. If your son/daughter phones you because he/she is unwell, please direct him/her to report to the Front Office. You may then phone our receptionist to let them know that your son/daughter has phoned you and make enquiries about whether he/she needs to be picked up from school.
3. If your son/daughter phones you during the day because he/she is experiencing some other problem at school, please direct him/her to talk to his/her Year Level Leader or the Student Counsellor. A follow up phone call from you to one of these people would also be very helpful, so that we can assist your child in resolving his/her difficulty.
4. Please do not give your son/daughter permission, via his/her mobile phone, to leave school. The school has duty of care and must be able to account for all students at all times. For your child's safety, please always communicate through the Front Office.
5. The school will not invest time to investigate any theft of any mobile phone or music device.
6. We do not allow individual students to be exempt from the general rules about electronic device use at school. Parents who have concerns about this policy should contact the school and arrangements can be made to ensure that their child is contactable while at school.
7. This mobile phone policy has been developed to ensure that all students can safely focus on their learning in every class.