



## Mobile Phone Policy

As a Catholic learning community in the tradition of Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St. Joseph, the College is committed to ensuring all students engage meaningfully in their learning, build a sense of hospitality and compassion, and create respectful relationships within the school community.

While technology can provide many opportunities for communication and learning, there are growing concerns about the relationship between excessive usage and its impacts on learning and wellbeing for adolescents.

Mount St. Joseph Girls' College advocates for safe and responsible digital citizenship, and prioritises student safety and wellbeing and the development of social skills and positive behaviour. As a learning community, our role is to educate students in the responsible use of technology so that our students are able to:

- build relationships and community by increasing face-to-face interactions and physical activity during breaks;
- enhance Learning through full engagement in classrooms;
- develop capacity for empowerment and self-regulation.

The aim of the policy is to provide a safe environment where students can learn without inappropriate mobile phone use (including cyberbullying) or distractions, and provide greater opportunities for social interaction and physical activity during recess and lunchtime.

A mobile phone is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network. For the purpose of this policy, 'mobile phone' refers to mobile phones and any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watches.

Mobile phones are to be turned off once a student enters the College. It is the student's responsibility to ensure the mobile device is in a secure place. Students need to be present and in the moment whilst at school and, as a College community, we want to promote fair and reasonable use of mobile devices. The use of technology is important, but the risks and benefits from its use need to be managed and responsibilities owned.

## Emergencies

In emergencies, parents can contact their children through the Front Office and Reception staff will contact the student.

## Exceptions

A small number of exceptions may be made. These exceptions will only be available if a mobile phone is essential for a student in:

- managing a diagnosed health condition;
- classroom learning only at teacher's discretion.

Teachers can grant a classroom-based learning exception.

## Consequences

Students who are using their mobile phone will be asked to turn the device off, however staff will use their discretion to apply the following for students who repeatedly disregard this policy.

Students who are found using the mobile phone will have the device confiscated and it will be placed at Reception and collected by the student at the end of day.

If a student's mobile phone is confiscated for a third time, parents may be asked to collect the phone from Reception on the student's behalf.