

Student Mobile Phones in Catholic Education Northern Territory Schools Policy Statement

Document Number:	CEO.PCWB.2101.1.1	Approved by:	Paul Greaves CENT
Effective Date:	30.11.23	Responsibility of:	Leader PCWB
Version Number:	1	Review due:	30.11.2025
		Contact Person:	Leader PCWB

Since 1 January 2023, student mobile phones have not been permitted to be used in Northern Territory government schools. Exemptions apply for teacher directed educational purposes or medical reasons.

Catholic Education NT is committed to enhancing the inherent dignity of all - students, staff and families to ensure the fullness of life for all. (John 10:10) We strive to ensure all students engage meaningfully in their learning, build a sense of hospitality and compassion, and create respectful relationships. While technology can provide many opportunities for communication and learning, there are growing concerns about the relationship between excessive and inappropriate usage and the impact on student learning and wellbeing.

In the spirit of Catholic Education that promotes good stewardship of resources and respectful interactions, commencing 1 January 2024 the use of student mobile phones will be restricted in Catholic Education Northern Territory schools. Mobile phones will not be permitted during learning time with exemptions to apply for teacher directed educational purposes or medical/wellbeing reasons. Local school policies will determine whether mobile phones must be off and away all day or available during non-learning times.

The aim of this policy is to:

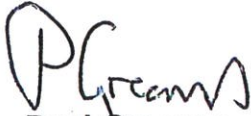
- eliminate disruption to educational programs through the receipt and transmission of phone calls or messages
- eliminate privacy concerns related to photographs or recording conversations without the knowledge of those being recorded
- provide a safe environment to learn without inappropriate use of, or distractions from, mobile phones and smart watches, such as cyberbullying, threats of violence, or accessing inappropriate materials via the internet
- provide greater opportunities for social interaction and physical activity during school break times.

This policy applies to all CENT schools, excluding boarding facilities.

This policy does not apply to outside hours school care services run by external providers.

Signed:

Date 30/11/2023



Paul Greaves
Director of Catholic Education



Mobile Phone and Social Media Policy

CENT Policy Links:

- Catholic Education Northern Territory (CENT) Student Mobile Phones in Catholic Education Northern Territory Schools Policy Statement
- Catholic Education Northern Territory (CENT) Student Mobile Phones in Catholic Education Northern Territory Schools Guidelines

Vision Statement

St John's Catholic College is a safe, connected, learning community for local, boarding and international students. We strive for excellence and ensure the holistic development of each student through a balanced approach to faith, academic, sporting and cultural activities.

Rationale

The purpose of this policy is to ensure St John's Catholic College is compliant with the above stated CENT policy and guidelines. This local school policy provides guidelines for all students for the restricted use of mobile phones and social media within the school context. The policy aims to:

- Balance the benefits and potential distractions/issues of mobile phone usage through the promotion of responsible use and the management of a restricted environments.
- Reduce/eliminate disruption to educational programs through the receipt and transmission of phone calls or messages.
- Reduce/eliminate privacy concerns related to photographs or recording conversations without the knowledge of those being recorded.
- Promote/provide a safe environment to learn without inappropriate use of, or distractions from, mobile phones and smart watches, such as cyberbullying, threats of violence, or accessing inappropriate materials via the internet.
- Promote/provide greater opportunities for social interaction and physical activity during school break times.

Scope

The scope of this policy covers all enrolled students at St John's Catholic College whilst on campus, and off campus whilst wearing the College uniform and/or when representing the College in any activity. Essentially, for Day Students the policy covers 'school time' whilst for Boarding Students the policy covers all time whilst students are in the care of the College.

Policy Number: 2023/11

Mobile Phone and Social Media Policy

Review Date: 2026/12

1 | Page

10-54 Salonika Street,
The Gardens NT 0820
P. 08 8982 2222
E. admin.stjohns@nt.catholic.edu.au

LMB 13, Darwin NT 0801
www.stjohnsnt.catholic.edu.au



Prohibited Use

The following actions are prohibited under this policy:

- The taking and/or sharing of photos, images, videos, and/or audio of other students and staff without permission of the individual/s.
- The appearance of College: uniform, property, images, and/or intellectual property in social media, messaging services or on websites where the behaviour, communication and/or presentation would reasonably be deemed inappropriate and/or offensive.
- Posts that refer directly or indirectly to the College, its staff or students without the permission of the individual/s and where the behaviour, communication and/or presentation would reasonably be deemed inappropriate and/or offensive.
- Engagement with and/or communication of inappropriate or offensive content and messages, including cyberbullying or harassment.
- Engaging in online activities that are unlawful, discriminatory, offensive, misrepresentative or not age appropriate.
- Using a mobile phone in a private area such as toilets, bathrooms or change rooms.

Mobile Phone Etiquette

Students are expected to follow these guidelines for mobile phone etiquette:

- Use earphones when listening to music or watching videos.
- Do not use mobile phones to disturb or disrupt others.
- Respect the privacy and personal space of others.

Day School – Within The Classroom Environment

- The classroom environment refers to all classes, homerooms, quiet study, learning nest, health centre, night-time tutoring, assemblies, masses/liturgies, activities, camps and excursions.
- The expectation is that student mobile phones are switched off / on silent, and not on the student whilst in the classroom environment (including water / bathroom breaks from class).
- The expectation is that Smart Watches are placed on flight mode so phone calls, messages, and alerts cannot be sent and/or received within the Classroom Environment.
- Vibrate is not considered appropriate, as alerts received even if not viewed, create a distraction from the assigned classroom environment activity.
- Mobile phones are not to be kept on the student as to remove the temptation to opportunistically view their mobile phone.
- It is expected that students will secure their mobile phones in either their school bag or locker during the classroom environment.
- At the discretion of the teacher (not student) mobile phones may be permitted for limited educational based activities.
- Parents / Guardians needing to contact their child whilst they are in the classroom environment are requested to contact the College Administration on 08 8982 2222 or admin.stjohns@nt.catholic.edu.au



Day School – Outside of Class Time

- Outside of class time refers to before school, recess, lunch and after school in the day school context.
- Students are permitted to access their mobile phone during this time for responsible use in accordance with this policy.
- Students are encouraged to limit their screen time and engage in face-to-face social interaction and physical activity.

The Boarding School Environment

- As a Boarding Provider, the College takes on a number of responsibilities with regards to Boarding Students. This is referred to as 'loco parentis', which means 'in place of a parent' – meaning the legal responsibility of a person or an organisation, such as the College, to partly take on the role and responsibilities of a parent whilst the student is in the care of the College as a Boarding Student. At St John's Catholic College, the responsibility for 'loco parentis' is with the Principal, and through his/her delegation, the Director of Boarding.
- The effective management of the Boarding School Environment requires the implementation of a Mobile Phone and Social Media Policy that regulates the use of mobile phones and social media, especially during sleep time.
- The Boarding School Environment refers to the outside of school hours where boarding students are under the care of the boarding staff.
- The Boarding School Environment includes all boarding related activities both on and off campus.
- Rules as per the Classroom Environment extends to the Boarding School Environment during night-time tutoring, masses/liturgies and other identified activities.
- It is essential for student health, wellbeing and learning that all students have the opportunity for scheduled, regular and uninterrupted sleep free from distractions including mobile phones.
- It is acknowledged that mobile phones are an effective tool for connecting students with family during their time at boarding school.
- Parents / Guardians have access to duty staff 24 hours a day via the duty phone, thus removing the requirement of boarding students having access to their mobile phone during sleep time.

Middle School Boarding Students (Years 7 – 9)

- Middle School boarding students are required to hand in their mobile phones to staff at the designated time during the evening (Sunday – Thursday).
- Middle School boarding students are not permitted to carry their mobile phones during the school day (Monday – Friday).
- Middle School boarding students receive their mobile phones in the afternoon, after the conclusion of school, for responsible use (Monday – Friday).
- Middle School boarding students are permitted to have access to their mobile phone for responsible use during the weekend (Friday afternoon to Sunday evening).



Senior School Boarding Students (Years 10 – 12)

- Senior School boarding students are required to hand in their mobile phones to staff at the designated time during the evening (Sunday – Thursday).
- Senior School boarding students receive their mobile phones in the morning, before the commencement of school, for responsible use during the school day in accordance with the above listed day school policy (Monday – Friday).
- Senior School boarding students are permitted to have access to their mobile phone for responsible use during the weekend (Friday afternoon to Sunday evening).

Reputation: Brands, Property, Trademarks and Intellectual Property

- College brands, property, trademarks and intellectual property refers to any name, image, audio, item, property or program that belongs to or reasonably refers to St John’s Catholic College Darwin.
- Use of College brands, property, trademarks and intellectual property in any form is prohibited unless written permission is obtained from the College Principal.
- Any unauthorised use or reference to College brands, property, trademarks and intellectual property may result in disciplinary and/or legal action.

Breach of this Policy

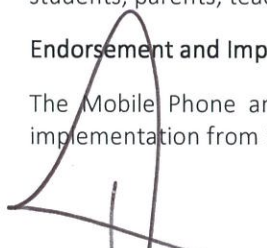
Any breach of this policy may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the behaviour management procedures of the College. Any unlawful and/or inappropriate conduct may be reported to the appropriate authorities, agencies and providers. The Principal reserves the right in matters relating to the College and its reputation to determine appropriateness.

Resources

The eSafety Commissioner website www.esafety.gov.au contains resources and a reporting abuse mechanism to support students, parents, teachers and the community.

Endorsement and Implementation

The Mobile Phone and Social Media Policy is endorsed by the College Principal and the College Advisory Board for implementation from 1 January 2024 with a review to take place by 31 December 2026.



Cameron Hughes
Principal – St John’s Catholic College

Date: 14/12/23



Neil Pomfret
Chair – College Advisory Board

Date: 14.12.23

