



# ST MARY'S Catholic College

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Replaces	
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## Mobile Device Policy

### Purpose

The aim of this policy is to provide guidelines for the use of mobile devices at St Mary's Catholic College in order to provide a healthy learning environment free from distractions. Furthermore, this policy aims to guide our College community to actively engage students, families and staff, both formally and informally, to ensure we all understand our responsibilities to ourselves and others regarding appropriate mobile device use.

The guidelines have been developed with the aim of walking shoulder-to-shoulder with families to:

- provide access to training and guidance for all students, staff and families around the safe and responsible use of mobile devices, including cyber safety training;
- regulate and limit the use of mobile devices; and
- work with families to provide a holistic 24-hour approach to a child's access to a mobile device.

### Rationale

St Mary's Catholic College recognises that mobile phones, and other mobile devices, are an important part of everyday life and accessed by a significant majority of our community. It is acknowledged that mobile technology and capability is rapidly advancing and provides both costs and benefits in an educational setting such as a school. Whilst mobile phones, in particular, are an important communication tool for families, it is also recognised that they can be disruptive in classrooms, undermining students' capacity to think, learn, remember, pay attention and regulate emotion.

The development of social skills is also important for young people. Recess and lunch time provide opportunities for students to be involved in physical activity and communicate with each other, face-to-face.

*In the College's daily life, the ways in which people interact with each other significantly affect each person's sense of self-worth, belonging and wellbeing. The fostering of high-quality interpersonal relationships (in Faith, Hope, & Love) among students, staff, and families is a responsibility shared by everyone.*

**"In short, there are three things that last: Faith, Hope and Love".**

**1 Corinthians 13:13**

## Expectations

1. For the purpose of this policy a mobile device is defined as a piece of portable electronic equipment that can connect to the internet, in particular mobile phones, smart watches, laptops and tablets.
2. Between 8:30am and the end of the school day, mobile devices are not to be seen or used on the school grounds or in classrooms including wearable technologies which must be offline. The following are exceptions:
  - a. Laptops are to be taken to class to engage in the curriculum under teacher instruction.
  - b. Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 may access laptops and tablets in the library during recess and lunch to study under supervision.
  - c. Students will be allowed a mobile device access time of 10 mins at the start of each recess and lunch at their allocated lockers. After this time, students must secure their devices back in their lockers at the sound of the second recess bell which marks the end of the device access time.
3. Mobile devices taken to school are to be secured in the student's allocated locker. The College accepts no responsibility for the misplacement, loss, damage, or theft of a mobile device.
4. Sports days, excursions, camps, and any school-organised activities are treated as a normal school day therefore mobile devices are not to be used during these activities. Advice of the storage options will be provided by staff overseeing the activities.
5. Families who need to contact their child are to do so via the College office on 4044 4200.
6. For payments that need to be made on school grounds e.g., in the Tuckshop or Uniform shop, cash can be used and EFTPOS facilities are available (students to have cash or a card).
7. Exemptions to the policy e.g., for medical reasons may be granted only by the Assistant Principal or Principal.
8. Breaches of the policy will result in consequences that align with the Whole School Pastoral Plan, specifically our **multi-tiered systems of support**.