RATIONALE

There are occasions when it is appropriate and beneficial for students to have access to a mobile phone. However, the school generally discourages the bringing of mobile phones to school. Students and parents need to be aware of the following policy that is designed to ensure that mobile phones do not disrupt the educational purpose and safe environment of the school.

IMPLEMENTATION

• Mobile phones brought to school must not be used in any manner or place that interferes with the normal routine and operation of the school.
• Students are required to take full responsibility for the use of their mobile phone whilst it is at school. Consequently, mobiles brought to school must never be loaned to other students.
• Students must have their mobile phones switched off (not in silent or vibrate mode) and out of sight during class time. There are no exceptions to this rule. Parents needing to contact students during class time may do so via the General Office.
• Mobile phones may not be used as a substitute calculator in mathematics or other classes.
• Students who -in the opinion of the responsible teacher or co-ordinator- breach the phone policy are required to immediately surrender it.
• Confiscated phones are placed in the General Office for safe keeping, usually for collection at the end of the school day.
• It is important that students display courtesy, consideration and respect for others whenever they are using a mobile phone at school.
• Mobile phones may not be operated anywhere where a camera would be considered inappropriate, such as in the change rooms or toilets.
• Appropriate action will be taken against any student who uses their phone (or allows others) to make images or record another person without their consent.
• Appropriate action will be taken against any student who makes harassing or threatening calls, or sends harassing or threatening messages, or sends inappropriate messages, or allows others to use their phone to do so.
• Students who receive inappropriate material must report it immediately or delete it immediately.
• Disciplinary action will be taken against any student who uses a mobile phone to cheat in exams or assessments.
• Students should ensure that their phones are always stored in a safe and secure place and never left in an unattended bag or change room. Stolen phones (particularly pre-paid models) are extremely difficult to trace and the college does not have the resources to investigate phone thefts.
• The Department of Education and Training and the college do not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and will not pay for any loss or damage to such property. Mobile phones are brought to school and used entirely at the owner’s risk. Senior students who drive a car to and from school must respect the law prohibiting mobile phone use while driving. This includes making or receiving voice calls and sending or receipt of SMS messages or data of any kind.
• This phone policy applies to students during school excursions, camps and extracurricular activities.
• Mobile phones are brought to school at your own risk.
• Blue toothed images or videos that are inappropriate and accepted, will receive the same consequences as the original maker.
• If there are any unjust or inappropriate messages or pictures suspected to be on the phone the school reserves the right to check the phone.
Consequences: Repeat offenders - parents will be called to collect the phone. Students who cannot adhere to this policy must not bring their phone to school

Also see:


**EVALUATION**

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

Approved: 2009.