

Mobile Phone Policy (Updated 2019)

To be read in conjunction with the Acceptable Use Policy.

Philosophical underpinning

Carmel School acknowledges the value technology can play in the teaching and learning program and to this end students are provided with a laptop and filtered internet access which is sufficient in the vast majority of circumstances. This level of constant connectivity can also provide distractions that remove the focus from the learning program. This policy aims to focus and foster the use of technology for its intended purpose whilst at school.

In addition, students are encouraged to deal with daily circumstances and situations including problem solving whilst at school, at School functions or on camps or excursions. The School aims to teach students life skills that include the ability to face and solve problems and difficulties independently. Seeking premature help for solving routine problems or challenges may have the adverse effect of undermining or weakening the individual student's ability to develop resilience, maturity and independence.

We encourage students to seek the help of their Mentor, Dean of Students, and staff members where appropriate, rather than calling in assistance from family and friends outside of School during the school day. Mobile phones in these particular circumstances may be a hindrance rather than a benefit. Students have access to School phones for urgent calls and for calls approved by a staff member.

Expectations and Understandings

Whilst the School recognises the convenience of mobile phones, students and parents should be aware of the fact that no responsibility will be taken for any loss or damage to mobile phones.

- If a mobile phone is brought to school it must be turned off during the school day, including recess and lunch breaks and preferably secured in the student's locker. This extends to all co-curricular activities where the phone may be deemed to detract from involvement in the activity.
- On occasion, mobile phones may be used during class time with the express permission of a teacher for educational purposes. Staff will advise students when this will occur.
- Where mobile phones are audible and/or visible they will be confiscated until the end of the day. The student will need to collect the phone from the Head of Secondary.
- Second and subsequent infractions will see the mobile phone held by the Head of Secondary for up to a week and the parents may be asked to collect the phone from the School.
- Repetitive disregard for the School's policy will result in further consequences.
- Students who use mobile phones at school for sending text messages, instant messages, photos or making or taking calls and messages during tests and examinations will be deemed to have cheated and will have a zero recorded for that particular test or examination paper.
- No phone is to be used to capture or record staff, students or anyone else without the express permission of the staff member or student and for educational purposes only. Unauthorised photos, audio or video taken and/or sent using a mobile phone at school, on camps, excursions or at School functions are not allowed as this infringes the privacy provisions of all members of the School community. Any such use of

a mobile phone may have serious consequences.

- The school supplies all members of the Community with Family Zone. It expects support from parents to ensure this is installed on student's devices, including mobile phones. Students using their phone to circumvent the School filtering will be deemed to have broken the ICT Acceptable Use policy of the School and have their phone confiscated as per this policy.