



## **Mobile Phone Policy**

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.

Having constant access to a mobile phone can hinder students' development in areas such as problem solving and facing situations independently. Additionally, phoning a parent instantly to seek premature help rather than facing a challenge themselves, can have the effect of undermining an individual student's ability to develop resilience, maturity and independence. We encourage students to seek the help of their teacher, Mentor, Director of Student Development and Wellbeing or other staff members where appropriate, rather than calling in assistance from family and friends outside school during the school day. 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 know that no responsibility will be taken for any loss or damage to mobile phones. Additionally:

- If students choose to bring a mobile phone to school, it must be stored in the student's locker during the school day, including recess and lunch breaks. This extends to all co-curricular activities. The locker must be locked with a padlock.
- On occasion, staff may decide that mobile phones are required in class for a specific educational purpose. They will advise students when this is necessary.
- During the school day, if a mobile phone is visible, it will be confiscated until the end of the day, when the student can collect the phone from the Head of School.
- 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 right to privacy of all members of the School community. Serious consequences will result from any such use of a mobile phone.