



# Mobile Phone & Connected Device Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with relevant BCE Policies.

**Policy** | Increasing sophistication of mobile phone and connected device technology presents issues for our college.

## Rationale

St Patrick's College mobile phone policy has been formulated in consultation with students, staff and parents. BCE guidelines have been used to assist in the formulation of this policy. For the purposes of this policy, we include connected watches (and other devices) that are used for recording and communication.

## Values

- Ethos, faith and spirituality
- Teaching and learning
- Community partnership
- Social Justice

## Guidelines

Areas of concern for College -

- High financial value of mobile phones and connected devices
- Use of cameras in mobile phones and connected devices leading to potential child protection, data protection and privacy issues for students and staff
- Distraction to student learning

It is not realistic to prohibit mobile phones and connected devices being brought to school, nor is it logistically possible for schools to collect such devices each morning and return them to students each afternoon. Students will be able to bring devices with them under conditions:

1. Mobile phones and connected devices must not be used for **ANY** purpose in the school grounds, or at school events (carnivals, excursion etc.) in school hours, unless under the direct supervision of a teacher for a clear educational purpose.
2. Mobile phones must always be switched off (not on silent mode) and kept out of view. Students are provided a locker for this purpose.
3. Camera functions on mobile phones are not to be used at **ANY** time, unless with the express permission of a teacher.
4. Students who feel unwell **MUST** contact home via the front office, **NOT** use their mobile phone. This allows first aid staff to monitor the student while they wait to be collected.

5. It is the responsibility of the student **not** to have the mobile phone seen or heard during school hours.
6. Parents who need to urgently contact students **MUST** do so through the front office. Staff will ensure that students receive messages
7. If a student needs to use or check their mobile phone, they may do so in break time under the supervision of a Pastoral/Curriculum leader (in the Pastoral or Curriculum offices) or in the office area with supervision from the office staff.

Students bringing communications devices to school do so at their own risk, and the College takes no responsibility for their loss, damage or theft.

What happens if a student breaches the Mobile Phone & Connected Device Policy?

This is dependent on the nature of the breach. Several examples follow -

- If a student is filming, recording or posting inappropriate material, BCE Behaviour Support sanctions will apply. This may involve suspension, or exclusion. There may also be police involvement.
- If a student is caught with their mobile phone in school hours, the phone will be sent to the office. Parents will be contacted via text. In the first instance, the student will be able to collect the phone from the office after school. The student will attend Reflection Room at lunch time. After the first instance, parents will be contacted, and they will be expected to make arrangements to collect the phone. Pastoral Leaders will contact home in this instance.
- If a student refuses to hand their phone in, or hands in a phone that is not the one they were caught with, further sanctions will apply. This may involve a parent interview and/or suspension.