



Mobile Phone Policy

Effective Date	October 2025
Review (Date & Staff)	October 2026
Associated Documents	Catholic Education in the Diocese of Lismore: The Mission of Jesus Christ Foundational Values Child Safeguarding Policy Student Anti-Bullying Prevention and Response Procedures Student Non-Attendance Procedures Responding to Concerns about Problematic Sexualised Behaviour of Children and Young People (Secondary) Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) Disability Standards for Education 2005 (Cth) Pastoral Care Framework DLCSL Pastoral Care Policy Student Management Guidelines

MOBILE PHONE - STUDENT

Students who bring their mobile phones, smart devices, and other related technology devices to school must adhere to the following procedures. These procedures include all times students are under the supervision of McAuley Catholic College staff (e.g., excursions, camps, travelling to and from school events). The principal's decision on all phones, smart devices, and related technology will be final. The Principal reserves the right to allow an individual student to use their device for medical monitoring or other such purposes.

Whilst mobile phones can be useful, when misused, they can be a significant distraction to learning and teaching and can cause unnecessary angst when used during the school day. Research supports that it is vitally important for students to have substantial periods of time free of mobile phone use. The College is committed to ensuring it provides a safe environment for all, where a focus on effective learning is central to all practices and procedures. We focus on developing resilience and skills that make students innovative and responsible digital citizens.

Definitions:

Mobile devices include: All mobile phones, iPads, iPods, Tablets, and smartwatches with independent communication ability. Under this policy, headphones, AirPods, etc., are not allowed except if a teacher has explicitly permitted a student to use them in a learning space with a laptop computer for learning purposes

Aims:

- To ensure mobile devices cause minimal impact on student learning and wellbeing
- To ensure there is minimal health and behavioural effect from mobile devices on students (screen time, addiction, inappropriate content, abuse, cyberbullying and harassment etc.)
- Minimise staff/student conflict surrounding mobile phone use

Mobile phones are valuable items, and their owners are responsible for them. The College will not accept responsibility for a phone's loss, theft, or damage.

Procedure:

- Phones must be turned off upon arrival at school in the morning and may be switched on again after classes at 3:10 pm.
- Students are welcome to leave their phones in the office each day
- There are phone tubs to store phones in the room for each lesson
- Phones cannot be used for purchases at the College canteen or Catherine's Cafe.
- Students are not allowed to lend their phones to other students during school hours.
- After 3:10 p.m., while supervised on school grounds, students may use their phones to listen to music, check messages, and make calls.
- Students must adhere to our Social Media policy. Accessing social media (such as but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.), text messaging, phone calls, FaceTime or similar, accessing apps, streaming movies, and listening to music are not allowed during school hours.
- Students are not to take photos or videos at any time at the college or in a school uniform.
- Students found using phones or other related technology devices (smartwatches, tablets, Chromebooks, earbuds) or any device capable of communication, recording, or internet access during school time without permission will incur the following consequences:

1st Offence:

- The staff member will confiscate the phone and place it in the office.
- The staff member is to record the incident on Compass.
- Students may collect the phone at the end of the day.

2nd Offence:

- The staff member will confiscate the phone and place it in the office.
- The staff member is to record the incident on Compass.
- The Year Coordinator or Leader of Pastoral Care will contact the parents.
- Students may collect the phone at the end of the day.
- The student is placed on Stage 1.

3rd Offence:

- The staff member will confiscate the phone and place it in the office.
- The staff member is to record the incident on Compass.
- The Year Coordinator or Leader of Pastoral Care will contact parents.
- The phone is to be collected by the parent or carer, not the student.
- The student is placed on Stage 2.
- The student will hand their phone in to the front office for a week.

NOTE: If a student refuses to hand over a device, the staff member will record the incident as defiance and refer it immediately to the Year Coordinator or Leader of Pastoral Care.
The Year Coordinator or the Leader of Pastoral Care will address ongoing and repeated behaviours as per our Whole School Student Management Guidelines.

Parent/student communication during the school day:

Students who need to contact their parents must do so through the office for matters of importance.
Parents who need to contact their child are reminded that this should be done by contacting the college office and asking that a message be relayed to their son/daughter.

Please note:

The following is an extract from the Terms and Conditions section of the College Enrolment form signed by parents/guardians:

1.3 The Parent/Guardian agrees not to engage in social media or allow children to engage in social media that disparages or brings the school or its employees into disrepute, Further the Parent/Guardian acknowledges the right of the school to suspend or terminate an enrolment in the event that social media statements are made that defame or disparage the school, employees or the Roman Church.