



M A R I S T C O L L E G E E M E R A L D

STUDENT MOBILE PHONE USE



Rationale

In all circumstances, parents or caregivers wishing to leave messages for their children do so by telephoning the College. Front office staff will contact parents in the case of an emergency. However, Marist College recognises that there are times when it is genuinely appropriate and useful for students to have access to a mobile phone. When unforeseen events occur, mobile phones provide students and their families with a ready means of communication. There is a need however, to set clear guidelines and discourage mobile phone use during the school day, in particular to avoid unnecessary interference with teaching and learning. Mobile phones are therefore banned between 8am and 3.15pm during a normal school day.

Values

Respect for Others, Self-Discipline, Responsibility, Sense of Community, Integrity, Courtesy, Consideration of Others, the value of Face to Face communication.

Consequences

1. Parents are encouraged to discourage pupils from bringing mobile phones to schools on the grounds that they are valuable and may be lost or stolen and that mobile phones over-use can impede normal social interaction.
2. The College cannot accept responsibility for mobile phones that go missing nor does it have the resources to conduct investigations into misplaced or stolen phones. Students and parents should be aware that mobile phones, as a target for theft, should be locked securely away in lockers or stored in the Administration Office.
3. The College cannot accept responsibility for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) resulting from mobile phone use.
4. Where a pupil does bring a mobile phone to the College it must remain in bags in their locker and switched off. Mobile phones may not be used for any purpose on school grounds 8am to 3.15pm or at off-site College activities, unless otherwise directed by staff eg. retreats and camps.
5. It is critical that all students are given the best possible learning environment so interruptions by mobile phones are not acceptable. Student mobile phones will be confiscated if students are caught using them on College grounds.
6. Mobile phones must not be taken into examinations. If discovered, academic penalties may apply.
7. Students who use mobile phones that lead to accusations of harassment will be dealt with under the College's Bullying Process.
8. Staff are not to use mobile phones during lesson periods, unless with specific permission from the Principal.

Child Protection, Data Protection and Privacy Issues

1. Mobile phones with cameras and screens create privacy issues for Marist College because:
 - Images or aural recordings of people can be taken without their knowledge
 - Images can be saved and sent to people
 - Images and aural recordings can be downloaded on to the Internet
2. In cases where there are gross invasions of privacy or where student or staff images or recordings are used without permission there will be serious consequences, such as suspension or exclusion from the College.
3. Screen-savers and down-loaded information on mobile phones need to be non-offensive and in line with the College's "Computer Acceptable Use Policy and Guidelines".

