

# Southern Cross Catholic College - Scarborough Secondary



**Southern Cross  
Catholic College**

Co-educational Prep - Year 12  
REDCLIFFE

## **SOUTHERN CROSS CATHOLIC COLLEGE MOBILE DEVICE POLICY AND PRACTICE GUIDELINES**

### **Rationale:**

Southern Cross Catholic College recognises that many students and parents feel the need to carry a mobile phone and accepts that there are genuine reasons for their use – for example to contact parents after sport practice, a part-time job after school or in emergencies.

However, as a learning community, the use of mobile phones and similar electronic devices can be disruptive to the learning environment and the safety of children therefore we need policies and related rules to govern their use during school hours.

Equally, we are a school that teaches and promotes Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) and positive psychology. These are researched and validated avenues to personal growth and the development of emotional intelligence.

*To promote positive relationships, reduce bullying and create resilience in children removing mobile communication during the school day is required. This action encourages face-to-face communication and allows the subtleties of tone, the importance of active listening and the non-verbal cues in conversation, and conflict, to become established and embedded in our children's ability to communicate, create meaning and understanding.*

This policy acknowledges that smart phones & electronic communication devices can be used for valid educational purposes but provides guidelines for safe and acceptable use. Equally it acknowledges smartphones and other electronic devices can easily be improperly used, lost, stolen or damaged and must therefore be effectively managed.

This policy looks to balance the benefits of mobile phones whilst managing the problems they can potentially cause.

### **Problems Identified:**

#### **Smartphones present to schools, students and their learning to following manageable risks:**

- Disruption to educational programs through the receipt and transmission of messages.
- Disruption to educational programs and learning environments through the engagement of students on social media.

- Privacy concerns related to the ability of many devices to take photographs, record video or audio without the knowledge or consent of those being photographed / recorded.
- Access and interface with inappropriate materials via the internet.
- Potential for cyber bullying via the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices.
- Loss and/or theft.
- Potential for breach of copyright.
- Potential for inappropriate use during examinations.

**As such these risks will be minimised by the following practices at Southern Cross Catholic College:**

- Mobile phones will be placed in each student's locked locker from 8.10am when supervision commences.
- Students are welcome to hand mobile phones to Student Services for safe keeping of a day.
- Counsellors, in consultation with the Head of Campus, Deputy Head of Campus or Pastoral team leader, may direct therapeutic use.
- Mobile phone technology is used to assist in managing certain conditions eg: diabetes insulin alarms. There will be medical exemptions allowed as prescribed/advised by medical practitioners for health management.
- The taking of photographs, recording video or audio in the College environment without **WRITTEN** consent is absolutely prohibited and may result in suspension or termination.
- The accessing of inappropriate online material via internet or associated apps is absolutely prohibited. It does not matter if this material was sourced via the College server or personal data plans. Inappropriate material covers all matter that is not in line with our values as a Catholic School in the Lasallian tradition.
- The transmission of sexual, violent, derogatory or defamatory messages and/or images is absolutely prohibited and in some cases criminal. These cases will be dealt with in accordance to our student behaviour support protocols and, as necessary or mandatory, be referred to police.
- Cyber bullying through text messages, social media sites or any other form of electronic communication will not be tolerated and may result in suspension or termination.
- If parents need to make contact with their child at any time of the day it is to be done by contacting Student Services.

### **Clarifications:**

1. The College does not accept any responsibility for theft, loss or damage or health effects (potential or actual) resulting from mobile phone use.
2. Parents and students should ensure that phones (and/or electronic devices) are properly and adequately insured as personal property.
3. Use of mobile phones during excursions and on camp is to be determined by the classroom teacher / teacher in charge of the excursion or camp, in accordance with the guidelines for safe and acceptable use as outlined in this document.

### **Sanctions for improper use:**

Students engaged in the inappropriate use of mobile phones /electronic devices including but not restricted to bullying or harassing others through SMS, voice or picture will receive immediate consequences, increasing in severity depending on nature of the offense

Non-observance or breaches of this policy may result in the student's mobile phone being confiscated for the remainder of that school day, kept in a safe place for collection by the student after the final bell. The school will take all due care and consideration but ultimately takes no responsibility for damage to or loss of the mobile phone.

If the student refuses to hand over their phone or is rude / uncooperative towards the teacher confiscating the phone, that child's parents will be notified and further consequences discussed. This will then be viewed as a behavioural misdemeanour and sanctions such as internal withdrawal and/or suspension may be invoked dependant on the level of rudeness and disrespect.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> offence in a term**

Phone is removed by the teacher and forwarded to the main office with student's name and house for safe keeping for the remainder of the day.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> offence in a term**

Phone is removed by the teacher and forwarded to the main office with student's name and house for safe keeping for the remainder of the day. Student to attend Reflection Room at first break

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> offence in a term**

Phone is confiscated and forwarded to the main office with student's name and house for safe keeping for the remainder of the day. Parents will be contacted to make an appointment with the Pastoral Leader/Deputy Head of Campus. Student will also be required to attend an after school detention.

**Deliberate disobedience and repeated failure to comply:** Such actions move beyond this policy and are considered to be of a far more serious nature. Deliberate and/or repeated disobedience will result in suspension, on the advice and direction of the Deputy Head of campus and/or Head of Campus as it would with any other similar matter in the school.

Inappropriate or unacceptable use of mobile phones causing extreme harm or distress to other members of the school community will lead to severe consequences. These may include suspension or recommendation to the Executive Director for enrolment termination.

