

## Student Mobile Phone Policy

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### **Purpose**

This policy outlines the requirements of St Mary of the Cross Catholic Primary School (“the School”) relating to students using mobile phones during school hours.

### **Rationale**

The School takes the safe and responsible use of digital technologies, student safety and wellbeing, and the development of social skills and positive behaviour, very seriously. On this basis, a new mobile phone policy will take effect from Term 4 2019.

Whilst the School acknowledges that we live in a technology-rich world where mobile phones are an important communication tool, research has found that mobile phones can be disruptive in classrooms and open to misuse at school. The unregulated presence of mobile phones in learning spaces can undermine students’ capacity to think, learn, remember, pay attention and regulate emotion.

This new policy acknowledges that technology is increasingly affecting how students learn and communicate. Therefore, when a student has been given explicit permission to access and use such devices to enhance learning by the classroom teacher, mobile phones will be permitted for that specific purpose. For a small number of students with particular health and wellbeing needs, an exception to the policy may also be granted.

This policy will remove a major distraction from our classrooms, so that teachers can teach, and students can learn in a more focused, positive and supported environment.

### **Policy**

From Term 4 2019, students will not be allowed to have mobile phones in their possession on school property during class or recess times.

### **Implementation**

Students whose parents allow them to bring mobile phones to school must:

- Switch their mobile phone off on arrival at school
- Hand them to their Homeroom teacher or the teacher in charge of their Homeroom on arrival at school
- Phones will be stored in a secure place during the day and returned to the students once the final bell sounds at the end of the day.

### **Note:**

Mobile phones owned by students are brought to school at the owner’s risk.

Phones must be clearly marked with the owner’s name

### **Failure to comply**

Students who do not hand in their mobile phone on arrival at school and are found to be in possession of a phone, will have their phone held in the school office until such time as their parent collects it.