

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Policy

Mobile Phones are part-and-parcel of life in the digital age. In the spirit of Catholic Education that promotes good stewardship of resources, just interaction within communities and values-specific education, students may use mobile phones to promote good and sustainable educational outcomes in St Michael's College within explicit requirements as detailed in this policy document.

Vision

St Michael's College, Merrimac is collaboratively engaged with the Catholic community, charitable organisations and individuals in the educational ministry of the Church in the Archdiocese of Brisbane and is called to:

Teach

We promote faith in Jesus Christ, teaching and learning about Jesus, the Gospel and the faith of the Catholic Christian community. Learning is lifelong, life-giving and engages the whole person.

Challenge

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we challenge those we educate to live in communion with God, others and the whole of creation in prayerful, sacramental, just, peaceful, inclusive and reconciling communities.

Transform

We educate for a transformed world in communion, by nurturing the gifts and potential of each person, enacting shared leadership, and exercising a preferential option for the poor and marginalised.

St Michael's College policies reflect its founding charisms and are based on the values of *respect for all individuals*.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to produce proper-use parameters for the use of mobile phones within the College environs for all students in St Michael's College so that everyone is clear about what will be encouraged and what will not be tolerated in the pursuit of respectful and appropriate use of mobile phones

General expectations:

- Students are allowed to bring mobile phones to the College.
- The College accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage to students' mobile phones

Expectations

The College acknowledges that there are times when it is genuinely appropriate and beneficial for students to have access to a mobile phone. Students may for example, need to contact parents in emergencies or to confirm or change a collection time from school. The following requirements need to be adhered to by students, when using mobile phones at the College:

1. Mobile phones are not to be used in a manner or place that is disruptive to the normal routine of the College. This includes the sending or receiving of text messages during class.
2. Students may only use their mobile phones before or after school, or during recess and lunch breaks, for the reason of contacting a parent or guardian, or to listen to music.
3. In-phone cameras are not to be used at the College, except under the specific and clear direction of a teacher. Students who photograph or film other individuals without their consent, or who send harassing or threatening messages, will face significant disciplinary consequences.
4. Disciplinary action will be taken against any student who is found to use a mobile phone to cheat in exams or assessment items. Mobile phones must not be brought into rooms during formal examinations.
5. The College accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage to student supplied mobile phones.
6. The use of mobile phone or other mobile devices for listening to music in the classroom is restricted to study/research lessons and is at the absolute and explicit discretion of teaching staff.

RTC Implications:

RTC provisions state: "Mobiles are not used in class"

This policy works in concert with RTC provisions in an explicit partnership in support of effective learning and teaching required by the College Educational Framework

1. Any breach of this policy, particularly point 1 in "Expectations", will be dealt with as an **automatic** referral to RTC. (This means that the student may return to class after having been to RTC and completed an RTC 'Sign Off' plan.)
2. Students in this situation will complete a single page RTC Plan which will be negotiated & signed off by the teacher in the RTC. Students will then be issued with a return to class time slip.
3. If the student subsequently, on return to class, does not adhere to the proper use of Mobiles in that class the student will be referred a second time to the RTC and must complete a second Plan. Students will not return to class during that lesson.
4. A student who accumulates 4 Mobile Phone referrals in a Term will be required to hand in their mobile phone in the morning to Student Services for a period determined by the Year Level Leader.