



Mater Dei Catholic College

Live God's Message

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Purpose:

To restrict student access to their mobile phones during school hours.

Relevant to:

All staff, students and parents

Responsible Officer(s):

Principal, Assistant Principal, Leadership Team, House Leaders, All Staff

Date of Introduction:

January 2020

Date of Review:

September 2025

January 2025

March 2024

January 2024

Modification History:

September 2025

January 2025

November 2023

April 2023

January 2023

June 2022

January 2020

Rationale and Policy Statement:

When used at school, mobile phones can be a distraction from learning and social interaction, as well as increasing the potential for negative online interaction. Removing mobile phones and headphones at school improves student safety, improves attention in the classroom and promotes prosocial personal interaction.

Mobile Phone / Wireless Earphone Policy

No mobile phones or airpods are to be used at Mater Dei when students are on site. Once students arrive on site in the morning, they are to move to one of two main supervised areas: the Resource Centre or the Central Courtyard. Phones and wireless devices are to be switched off and put away before they arrive at these areas. Devices should not be turned back on or retrieved until students leave the site at 3.10 pm. In the event that students remain in the Resource Centre or classrooms for after-school activities such as tutoring, devices should remain switched off until they leave for the day.

If they are required to use headphones during class time as directed by their teacher, students are to use the wired headphones supplied in the student book pack. New wired headphones are also available for purchase at the front office.

Students needing to use the toilet during class time may be required to remove a phone from their pocket and store it in their bag before going.

Students purchasing food and drinks from the College Canteen or the Pear Tree Cafe must use cash or a card. Students are not able to pay using their mobile phone.

Parents needing to contact their child during the school day should call the front office on 69 238300.

Consequences of misuse

Teachers at Mater Dei operate on the premise, *See it, hear it, lose it*. If a mobile phone, headphones, airpods or earbuds are seen or heard, regardless of whether they are being actively used, the student will be directed to take it to the front office. Parents will be notified via Compass. The student may collect the phone or device at the end of the school day.

Where a student fails to present to the office, or if a student is sent to the office on multiple occasions in one year, the phone or headphones will need to be collected from the front office by a parent of the student.

Exemptions

Students who need to make a phone call must report to the front office to seek permission. Once permission is granted, they should make the call in the foyer of the Front Office and advise staff once the call is complete.

The Principal or Assistant Principal may make exemptions about mobile phone use for medical or health related reasons, such as the monitoring of blood sugar for students with Type 1 Diabetes. Any exemptions must be sought from the Principal and receive approval before a mobile phone is used.

Excursions

If students bring a mobile phone or headphones on an excursion, normal College rules apply. During any overnight excursions, all mobile phones must be handed in to supervising teachers before lights out. If an excursion returns to the College after hours, students may be given permission to contact their parents via their phone to update them about arrival times.

We reiterate that it is our strong preference that mobile phones are not brought to the College. We appreciate that for a variety of reasons, parents/carers support their children having their phone at school. If they are brought to site, devices must be used according to the College's Mobile Phone Policy and Procedures. Any inappropriate use of a personal device may result in referral to the relevant authorities. All students are involved in presentations by the Police Youth Liaison Officer about the appropriate and responsible use of personal devices.

