

<p style="text-align: center;">Mobile Phone Policy in Holy Family Senior School Ratified by BOM 9th February 2010</p>
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This policy outlines the appropriate use of mobile phones in Holy Family Senior School. It has been agreed by the school staff and BOM and incorporates the information gathered from parents/guardians through a questionnaire. The results of which are attached to the policy.

Rationale

In consultation with parents, (questionnaire), BOM and staff we sincerely advocate that pupils would only bring a mobile phone to school when absolutely necessary or where safety/communication is an issue before or after school.

As our core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an environment free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions we ask that this practice be limited. We also ask that the age of the child be taken into consideration when permission to bring a phone to school is granted by a parent.

The school authorities are prepared to allow mobile phones on the premises but only within the parameters of the policy as stated below.

Pupils

- Pupils are aware that if they bring valuable items such as mobile phones to school they can be easily lost or stolen, and this is often very stressful.
- Pupils remain responsible for all of their personal effects whilst at school. Once pupils enter the school grounds the school takes no responsibility for mobile phones. Mobile phones are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school cannot accept responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.
- Students are advised that if they bring a mobile phone onto the school grounds during the school day, they must switch it off and it is to be placed in their bag until they leave the school premises at the end of the day. There are no reasons why a student needs to have in their possession, or use, a mobile phone during the teaching day.
- If students do bring their mobile phone to school it should be clearly and permanently marked with their name

Inappropriate Use

Generally, a mobile phone is used inappropriately if it:

- disrupts or is likely to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school
- or threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or well being of any person;
- or is in breach of any law.

Inappropriate use of mobile phones will include students using them to bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the phone. This type of misuse will be dealt with under the Student Behaviour Policy as a gross misdemeanor.

Sanctions

In line with our Behaviour Policy, for students who fail to follow these guidelines, the following sanctions will be applied:

- A pupil who uses his/her phone without permission while in the school premises or whose phone is rung or used to send or receive a text message will have his/her phone confiscated by their teacher and sent to the school front office.
- It is the responsibility of the pupil to collect the phone from the principal's office accompanied by their parent or guardian.
- A pupil may be banned from bringing a mobile phone onto the school grounds if they repeatedly fail to follow these guidelines.

Staff

- During teaching time, while on playground duty and during meetings, mobile phones will be switched off or put on 'silent' or 'discreet' mode.
- Except in urgent or exceptional situations, mobile phone use is not permitted during teaching time, while on playground duty and during meetings
- All school communication with parents/ guardians and children is conducted through the school office, the school mobile and the HSCL mobile.

This policy will be reviewed annually.