



Student Mobile Phone Policy

Introduction:

Holy Rosary School takes the safe and responsible use of digital technologies seriously. We acknowledge that we live in a technology-rich world where mobile phones are an important communication tool. Research has found that mobile phones and other devices can be disruptive in classrooms and open to misuse at school. The unregulated presence of mobile phones and other devices in classrooms can undermine students' capacity to think, learn, remember, pay attention and regulate emotion.

Holy Rosary School has developed this policy and procedure to provide staff, students, and parents/carers with clear guidelines on mobile phone restrictions, exemptions and storage requirements at school.

This policy takes effect at the commencement of the 2020 school year and complies with the direction of the Victorian Minister for Education under [Section 5.2.1\(2\)\(b\) of the Education and Training Reform Act 2006](#).

Scope:

This policy applies to students and student mobile phones brought onto school premises during school hours, including before and after school times on the yard, lunch and play breaks, school excursions and camps.

Definitions:

Mobile Phone: is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network. (DET 2020)

For the purpose of this policy, 'mobile phone' refers to mobile phones and any device that may connect to or has a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watches.

Policy:

Holy Rosary School discourages students bringing mobile phones to school. However, it acknowledges that some students may bring a mobile phone to school, particularly, if they are travelling independently to and from school.

Mobile phones are not permitted for use at Holy Rosary School during school hours:

- » Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must switch them off and take them to the office prior to the commencement of the school day.
- » Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see exemptions)
- » When emergencies occur, parents/ carers should reach their child by calling the school office.



Implementation:

Personal Mobile Phone Usage:

In accordance with the [Victorian Department of Education & Training's Mobile Phones Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, mobile phones must not be used at Holy Rosary School during school hours, including lunchtime and recess, unless an exception has been granted.

Where a student has been granted an exception, the student must use their mobile phone for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.

Secure Storage:

Mobile phones owned by students at Holy Rosary School are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Students are discouraged from bringing mobile phones to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. (ie: they are travelling independently to and from school or an exemption has been granted).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Holy Rosary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so.

Students who bring a mobile phone to school must switch the phone off and take it to the office prior to the commencement of the school day.

Students, parents and carers must note that Holy Rosary School does not maintain insurance for accidental property damage or theft. Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items.

Enforcement:

Students who fail to secure their mobile phone as outlined in the school's Mobile Phone Policy:

First Occurrence:

- » The student will be asked to take their phone to the office immediately.
- » The student will receive a verbal warning and be reminded of their responsibility to secure their mobile phone in accordance with this policy.

Second Occurrence:

- » The student will be asked to take their phone to the office immediately.
- » Contact will be made with the student's parent/carer reminding them of their child's responsibility to secure their mobile phone in accordance with this policy.
- » Parent/carer is informed that their child's failure to comply with the school's Mobile Phone Policy and the [Victorian Department of Education & Training's Mobile Phones Policy](#) may result in consequences, consistent with our school's existing policies.

Third Occurrence:

- » The student will have their device confiscated and it will only be returned to parents/carers.
- » A meeting will be scheduled with the parents/carers and their child to discuss consequences, consistent with school policies.



Refusal to Comply:

Where a student refuses to comply with the school's Mobile Phone Policy or hand over their mobile phone, immediate contact will be made with the student's parent/carer requesting them to attend school.

Inappropriate Use of Mobile Phones:

Students who use their mobile phones inappropriately at Holy Rosary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's policies.

The inappropriate use of personal mobile phones is any use of the device during school hours, unless an exception has been granted. The inappropriate use of a mobile phone also includes:

- » The use in any way that disrupts the learning of others;
- » Sending inappropriate, harassing or threatening messages or phone calls;
- » Engaging in inappropriate use of social media including cyber bullying;
- » Capturing video, images or voice recordings, of people, including students, staff and other members of the school community without their permission;
- » Capturing video, images or voice recordings in the school toilets;
- » Use during testing and assessment.

Exemptions:

Exemptions to this policy may be applied during school hours where certain conditions are met. There are two categories for exemption:

- » Learning related exemptions;
- » Health and wellbeing exceptions.

Exemptions may only be granted by the principal, or their nominee, on formal request from a student's parent/carer. Exemptions must be documented and staff informed.

1. Learning Related Exemption

<i>Specific Exemption</i>	<i>Documentation</i>
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty. (eg: visual or hearing impairment)	Personal Learning Plan
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)	Personal Learning Plan

2. Health and Wellbeing Related Exemption

<i>Specific Exemption</i>	<i>Documentation</i>
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan

Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which the exemption has been granted.

**Exclusions:**

This policy does not apply to:

- » Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- » Travelling to and from school

References:

Victorian Government, Department of Education & Training – Student Use of Mobile Phones 2020,

Victorian Government, Education & Training Reform Act - Section 5.2.1(2)(b) 2006.