



## Queen of Apostles School

# MOBILE PHONE POLICY (STUDENTS)

---

## RATIONALE

Mobile phones are part of modern society and Queen of Apostles School accepts that some students will possess mobile phones. There are times when it may be genuinely appropriate and useful for students to have access to them. However, the ever-changing mobile phone technology presents a number of challenges to the school environment. These include:

- Mobile phones interrupting lessons and disturbing the learning of others.
- Loss and theft of mobile phones.
- Mobile phones being used inappropriately (for illicit texts or photos).
- Mobile phones being used inappropriately and unnecessarily on excursions and during the school day.
- Issues related to social status, peer pressure, socialisation and harassment.

## PRINCIPLES

1. Queen of Apostles School has in place procedures, through the school office, for parents and students to contact each other as the need arises.
2. It is appreciated that due to a variety of circumstances mobile phones have become essential to the well-being of students, particularly for those who walk to school, ride a bike or catch a bus.
3. The school has a responsibility to ensure that mobile phone usage does not disrupt the learning environment

## PROCEDURES

1. On arrival at school, mobile phones must be switched off and placed in the Mobile Phone box located in each classroom.
2. Whilst Queen of Apostles School will attempt to safe guard the mobile phones of students, the school does not accept responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged phones.
3. Use of a phone in school hours will result in the phone being confiscated and given to the school office. Parents will be contacted and at the Principal's discretion, the phone will be returned to the student.

4. Use of mobile phones during out of school functions arranged by the school including excursions, camps, and retreats will not be permitted. Arrangements are in place for communication with a staff member in the case of an emergency.
5. Watches with phone capability are not appropriate for Primary School students. Please see the Principal if there are extenuating circumstances that necessitate the watch being worn.
6. Parent / carers are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child can be reached quickly and assisted in appropriate ways.

**If the policy is not followed:**

1. Use of a phone in school hours will result in the phone being confiscated and given to the school office. Parents/carers will be contacted and at the Principal's discretion, the phone will be returned to the student or the parents may need to collect the phone personally from the office. If the phone is returned, a letter will be sent home to parents informing them of the matter and a warning registered and noted.