



Acceptable Use for Student Mobile Phones – 31/10/19

RATIONALE

The introduction of Compass and the increased ownership of mobile phones requires that the School Leadership Team, teachers, students and parents take steps to ensure that mobile phones are used responsibly at school.

- The Acceptable Use Policy is designed to ensure that issues involving mobile phones are clearly identified and addressed.
- The benefits that mobile phones provide, such as organisation, learning and safety, can be continued at St Joseph's Aberdeen

PERSONAL SAFETY AND SECURITY

St Joseph's accepts that parents give their children phones for safety, personal security and their convenience. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child.

RESPONSIBILITY

- It is the responsibility of students who bring a mobile phone to school to abide by the guidelines outlined in this document.
- It is the responsibility of parents of students who bring mobile phones to school to abide by the guidelines outlined in this document.
- The decision to provide a mobile phone to their child should be made by parents and guardians, please note that this is not a requirement of the school.
- **During school days between the hours of 8:30 am to 3:15 pm the school is responsible to ensure that students adhere to the following**

ACCEPTABLE USES

- **IN CLASS:** Mobile phones should be on **silent** and placed in the Mobile Phone Wall Pockets at the start of each lesson.
- There may be an occasion when a teacher requests student(s) to use their mobile phone in the classroom. With permission, the mobile phone will be used for educational purposes only.
- **OUT OF CLASS: Students are not permitted to use or get out their mobile phone. However, during the two-minute time period between the warning bell and the bell to indicate the start of the next lesson students may use their mobile phone to check Compass. If there is an urgent need to check a phone, permission may be granted by the teacher.**
- Parents and students are reminded that in cases of emergency or illness, the School Office remains the vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure a student is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.

UNACCEPTABLE USES

- Students who need to go home during the day because of illness must not use their mobile phone to contact a parent or guardian to pick them up. The student must report to Student Services and a staff member will assess if the student needs to go home, spend time in Sick Bay, return to class or requires and an ambulance.
- If a parent receives a text or call from their child requesting to be picked up at school during school hours, they are asked to contact the School Office to inform them of their child's call.
- Using mobile phones to bully or threaten other students is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. In some cases, it can constitute criminal behaviour.
- It is forbidden for students to video or photograph other students or staff. This includes uploading to a website for public viewing. It is a criminal offence to use mobile phones to menace, harass or offend another person. This can be traced.
- Mobile phones are not to be used as personal hotspots on the school grounds.

THEFT or DAMAGE

- Students should mark their mobile phones clearly with their names.
- Mobile phones found on the school grounds should be handed to Student Services immediately.
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.
- It is strongly advised that students use password/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised access to their phone cannot be made. Students must keep their password/pin confidential.

INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT

- Any student caught with a mobile phone during class without permission, that is not placed in the Mobile Phone Wall Pocket may have the phone confiscated by the teacher and placed in Student Services for the rest of the day. Students may collect their phone at the end of the school day.
- **Any student caught with a mobile phone, in the first instance will be required to put the phone away. If this direction is not adhered to, then the phone will be confiscated and placed in Student Services for the rest of the day. Students may collect their phone at the end of the school day.**
- Repeat offenders will be reported to the Student Coordinator and may result in further disciplinary action, **such as, overnight confiscation.**
- **Any student who refuses to comply with a teacher's instruction will be referred to a Student Coordinator or an Assistant Principal and may result in further disciplinary action as outlined.**