Schools Student Use of Mobile Phone and Wearable Technologies

School Specific Statement of Practice

DOCUMENT ID	Schools Student Use of Mobile Phone and Wearable Technologies Statement of Practice	
APPLICABLE TO	St Joseph's Catholic College, Aberdeen	
DOCUMENT OWNER	St Joseph's Catholic College, Aberdeen	
EFFECTIVE DATE	Term 2 2026	
REVIEW SCHEDULE	Annual	
RELATED DOCUMENTS	Schools' Student Use of Mobile Phones and Wearable Technologies Guideline ICT Acceptable Use Procedure Privacy Policy Schools' Suspension, Expulsion and Exclusion Procedure	

1. Purpose

The purpose of the School Specific Guideline is to outline the culture, development and practice at a school level that implements the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle (the Diocese) Schools Student Use of Mobile Phones and Wearable Technologies Guideline.

The purpose is to outline a process for managing student mobile phone and wearable technology use at St Joseph's Catholic College, Aberdeen, so they are used appropriately and safely at school.

2. School Context

St Joseph's Catholic College, Aberdeen, is a rural high school with over 700 students who travel daily to school from various local and surrounding areas of the Upper Hunter, covering approximately 15,000 km². Due to the geographic isolation, parents may require students to have mobile phones and/or wearable technologies to support their safe travel to and from school and sporting events.

3. Development

This practice reflects SJCCA's commitment to supporting the Diocesan Schools Student Use of Mobile Phones and Wearable Technologies guidelines adopting the 'Switched off and away' approach. Students must secure all mobile phones in their bags within their lockers upon arrival to school. Wearable technologies should be set so that they cannot receive calls, messages or notifications during school hours thus being just a watch.

4. Implementation

Variations to the 'Switched off and away' option are:

Implementation	Responsibility
1. Students' mobile phones are switched off, stored in their bags (not in their pockets) once they enter the school gates, and stored in their lockers during the day until they leave the school gates. Students may not use mobile phones to purchase items from the school canteen.	Students Staff on duty
2. Wearable technologies should be set to not receive calls, messages, or notifications during school hours. They may not be used to purchase items from the school canteen.	Students Staff
3. Headphones, AirPods and other listening devices are not to be worn during class time, other than during music classes, with the direct approval of the teacher. If noise-cancelling is required on medical advice, other noise-cancelling devices (e.g., Loops) may be worn as part of the student's IP.	Students Staff
4. Mobile phones are prohibited at school events and excursions except under exceptional circumstances.	Staff
5. Wearable technologies should not be worn during an assessment or examination. Only analogue watches may be used in an assessment or examination and should be placed on the desk in view of the supervisor.	Students
6. Students with health needs or other specific requirements may carry their mobile phones, but only with a formal exemption process overseen by the school principal.	Students Principal
7. Students found with their mobile phones on their person outside these designated times must surrender their devices to Student Services for the remainder of the term. Students who breach this rule on further occasions within the term will receive, as a minimum, a Notification of a Formal Caution to Suspend as per the School's Suspension, Expulsion, and Exclusion Procedure.	Students Staff
8. Students, under special circumstances only, who need to use their mobile phone during school hours need to seek out a LOWE/AP for permission to do so.	Students LOWE/AP
9. Students who need to make a phone call during school hours need to go to Student Services or seek out a LOWE/AP to use the school landline phones.	Students Staff
10. Parents should not contact their child via their mobile phone during school hours, but should instead contact the school office staff at 65437444 to relay a message.	Parents