



Definition

“Electronic devices” include mobile phones, headphones, earphones, smart watches and any other visual or audio electronic device that a student carries for personal use or is not for use as part of the daily school curriculum.

Rationale

- Mobile phones: are an important communication medium in today’s world. However, there are restrictions on the use of mobile phones at Sacred Heart College, given classroom protocols (such as avoiding disruptions by phone calls or texting messages) and the integrity of learning and assessment requirements. These devices should not interrupt proceedings in classrooms or other places of learning on the College campuses.
- Head/earphones: Modern technology provides the potential for students to bring many hours of recorded music or other audio material to school for their personal use. However, research is clear that such devices easily distract the attention of students from teacher’s directed learning and from the process of learning itself.
- Increasingly there are situations when students need to listen to podcasts, lectures and videos accompanied by audio. This should only occur in consultation with the classroom teacher or library staff.
- There is also the possibility that these electronic devices could be inappropriately used, lost or damaged.
- The development of interpersonal skills is integral to the holistic educational plan of the College and electronic devices need to be managed so as not to impede this aim.

Aims

- To create and maintain quality learning environments that are enhanced and not compromised by personal electronic devices.
- To utilise the benefits of mobile phones whilst managing the problems they can potentially cause.

Implementation

Mobile Phones and Smart Watches:

- Are not to intrude on or disrupt in any way the learning environment, especially in the classroom.
- Will not violate the integrity of assessments and therefore will not be allowed into tests and/or exam centres.

Practices:

- Students who bring mobile phones and smart watches to school do so at their own risk and the College accepts no responsibility for loss, damage or theft.
- Students misusing mobile phones or causing a nuisance will have the phone confiscated in keeping with the process let out in the Student Handbook.
- Electronic Devices may only be used during school time in accordance with educational practices.

Head/earphones:

Head/earphones can only be used in the school as an educational device and are not permitted for recreational music and consequently are banned both inside and outside the classrooms/learning areas. The discretion for their use for a learning activity or task rests with the teacher.



Management Protocol

- Students misusing mobile phones or other electronic devices will have the device confiscated. This item is to be placed at the Front Office clearly labelled with the Name and House.
- This is to be recorded on SEQTA.
- The student can redeem the item at the end of the day but the Head of House will arrange a penalty for this breach in code of conduct.
- In cases of repeat offenders, the Director of Students may require the student's parent to redeem the item from the College.

Policy Title	Electronic Devices Policy
Ratified by Executive and College Council	February 2022
Policy due for review	February 2025