

ST MATTHEW'S SCHOOL

NARROGIN



**MOBILE PHONE
POLICY**

VISION STATEMENT

St Matthew's School enables children to strive to reach their full potential, as God intends, by fostering concern for self, others, the environment and their relationship with God.

**Developed 2013
Review 2016**



St Matthew's School

Mobile Phone Policy

Rationale

Mobile phones are part of modern society and the school accepts that 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 text or photos)
- Mobile phones being used inappropriately on excursions and other school related events.
- Issues of social status, peer pressure, socialisation and harassment.

Principles and Procedures

St Matthew's School has in place appropriate methods, through the Office for parents to contact students and vice versa. It is preferred that students do not have mobile phones at school. Students should only require a mobile phone if they walk, ride a bike or catch a bus to school. When students do bring them, the following policy applies:

- Students shall not use a mobile phone at school. This includes, but is not limited to showing and/or sending text, images or recordings to other students, filming of students, playing music.
- On arrival at school, mobile phones must be switched off and handed to the classroom teacher. The phone shall be collected from the classroom teacher at the end of the school day.
- Mobile phones should not have images, text or recordings on them which may be deemed to be offensive to others.
- The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are brought to school. It is the responsibility of the student to safeguard against misplacement, loss or theft.
- Use of a phone in school hours will result in the phone being confiscated by the teacher and placed at the office. A letter will be sent to the student's parents from the Principal asking them to contact the school to arrange collection.
- 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.

If the policy is not followed then:

1. The mobile phone will be confiscated from the child and must be collected from the Office by a parent/caregiver.
2. There will be a letter sent home to inform parents of the matter and a warning is registered and noted.
3. Any re-occurrence will result in an in-school detention.
4. For serious breaches, students may be excluded from bringing a mobile phone to school and/or lose access to the school's ICT for an extended period of time in line with the schools Information and Communications Technology Policy.