



ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

Use of Mobile Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Effective February 2020:
Updated February 2026

BACKGROUND:

The use of technologies such as mobile phones, smart watches and other electronic devices is part of contemporary life. At the same time, St Augustine's College recognises the research that has found mobile phones and other electronic devices can be disruptive in classrooms and open to misuse at school.

The use of smartphones in classrooms can be problematic, distracting and anxiety inducing... They can [also] detract from social interaction with peers and engagement with the world when used inappropriately. The misuse of smartphones can have implications for cybersafety and cyberbullying/image-based abuse'.

National Centre Against Bullying

Our Augustinian value of Unitas calls us to promote community and authentic relationships. Therefore, at morning tea and lunchtime, we prioritise opportunities for students to communicate with each other face-to-face as well as to engage in physical activity.

It is acknowledged that there are circumstances, particularly for those who use public transport, purchase from the tuck-shop and those involved in out of school co-curricular activities or part time work, where access to a mobile phone can be both a convenience and a safety measure. However, the unregulated presence of mobile phones in classrooms and at school can undermine students' capacity to think, learn, regulate emotion, be present to others and value life within the St Augustine's College community. It can also increase the use of social media throughout the day and the taking of unsolicited images.

RATIONALE:

In working with students and parents to manage the appropriate use of technology devices, there are several considerations significant for the College:

- Keeping teaching and learning at the centre of daily activities and the avoidance of unnecessary distraction from this core task.
- Ensuring that students do not contact people outside the College during school time. Parents are encouraged to contact the College office, if they need to make contact with their child throughout the day.
- Being proactive about possible bullying and harassment.
- Reducing security issues such as theft.

EXPECTATION:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours.
- **These devices are not to be used or handled by students between 8.30 am and 3.00 pm. Other than to make purchases at the tuck-shop.**
- St Augustine's College does not take any responsibility for lost, damaged or missing items.
- All students from Years 7 to 12 have an allocated locker which should be used to secure valuables. Lockers must be locked at all times.
- All Primary students who choose to bring mobile phones or other electronic devices, to school must have them switched off and securely stored in the classroom locked drawer. It is the student's responsibility to ensure it is placed in the safe location during the day.
- Smart Watches are only to be used to tell the time, or they will be removed and placed in the secure drawer.
- Where devices are required for payment for items purchased at the College, a student may use their device at the point of sale. This applies to Year 7-12 students only.
- Other exceptions to the policy would only be applied in rare circumstances (e.g. for medical or specific education purposes). Exceptions can be granted by the Principal or Head of School only upon application by the student and/or staff member.
- Earphones, headphones, and air pods are not permitted to be used/ worn in class or at breaktimes in accordance with the above policy.
- Where headphones or other devices/accessories may be necessary for completion of task requirements e.g. Workplace Health and Safety induction using a College MacBook, exceptions may only be granted by the Curriculum Leader.
- Any electronic device used at the College is used in accordance with other College expectations particularly the St Augustine's College ICLT Acceptable Use Policy.

CONSEQUENCES OF INFRINGEMENTS:

If the device is used in breach of the College expectations by the student or any other student to whom the device is given, the following consequences will apply:

- If an electronic device is sighted, the student will be directed to the RTC to hand in the phone/device for storage until the end of the day. Students will collect their phone/device from the RTC between 3 pm and 3:15pm.
- If the infringement occurs during period 5 or 6, the phone/device will also be required to be handed in the following day.
- On a second (subsequent) occasion, the student will receive a lunchtime reflection in addition to the above consequences.
- On a third (subsequent) occasion, the student will be required to surrender their phone to the RTC for a total of five school days. They will hand it in before 8:30 am each day and pick it up at 3pm.
- Further infringements may involve suspension, which will also require a re-entry interview with parents or carers.
- If a student refuses to attend the RTC, there will be additional consequences.

Primary

- Primary students are discouraged from bringing mobile phones and other electronic devices not issued by the College to school. However, if there is a parent concern due to safety on buses etc., it is a student's responsibility to ensure it is placed in the classroom locked drawer.
- The College does not take responsibility for the loss or theft of such items.
- Students found with their mobile devices (including smart watches) during the school day will be directed to the RTC. Parents will receive an email.
- On the second occasion, an Assistant Principal will be alerted, and contact is made home.
- On the third occasion, a lunchtime detention and a meeting with parents/caregivers will be organised.