Rationale

The use of mobile phones and similar electronic devices (eg iPods) in class can be disruptive to the learning environment of students and therefore is discouraged. Items that are dangerous or likely to cause disruption or harm to the smooth running of the whole college and the education of other students can be banned. The college acknowledges that there are times when it is genuinely appropriate and beneficial for students to have access to a mobile phone and/or other similar electronic device.

Guidelines

- The college expects that all students should have their mobile phones and other similar electronic devices switched off and out of sight during classes. This also applies to school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.
- Students should only use their mobile phones and similar electronic devices before or after school, or during recess and lunch breaks.
- There is an expectation that students will display courtesy, consideration and respect for others whenever they are using a mobile phone.
- In-phone cameras are not to be used anywhere a normal camera would be considered inappropriate, such as in change rooms or toilets.
- In-phone recorders/cameras are not to be used anywhere a normal recorder/camera would be considered inappropriate. Students may be asked to place mobile phones that they have in their possession on the table in front of them when being interviewed by staff.
- Students should ensure that their mobile phones and similar electronic devices are always stored in a safe and secure place. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to personal property bought to school. (Refer DEECD Circular 038/2005)
- Staff to use their professional discretion in regards to the use of mobile phones in classrooms.

Actions

- A student who does not comply with the Policy Guidelines will initially have their mobile phone or similar electronic device confiscated and kept by the classroom teacher, given to the Learning Community Leader to keep until the end of the day. Exception Session 4 when classroom teacher may return the phone at the end of the session. This will be recorded on RISC by the class room teacher involved. A second confiscation will result in the mobile phone or other similar electronic device being taken to the General Office for collection by a parent. This should be recorded on RISC by the classroom teacher involved.
- Appropriate action will be taken against any student who photographs, records or films other individuals without their consent or sends harassing or threatening messages. This includes the posting of mobile phone photos on the internet (cyber bullying). This action may include Police notification
- Disciplinary action will be taken against any student/s who is/are caught using a mobile phone to cheat in exams or assessments.
- Mobile phones are used at their owners’ risk and school resources will not be used to try to find a lost/stolen mobile phone or similar electronic device.