



Mackillop Catholic Primary School Mackay Mobile Technology Policy

Approved: April 2021 | Reviewed August 2022

Policy Statement

No student is to bring a mobile phone or other personal electronic device including wearable technology such as: smart watches and fitness trackers, to school.

Description

Mackillop Catholic Primary School embraces the benefits of technology, however is committed to reducing students' exposure to cyber-risks (such as cyberbullying) when using the internet, mobile phones and other personal electronic devices. MacKillop is also committed to reducing the potentially high level of distractibility and 'off-task' behaviours in the classroom which may occur as a result of students wearing devices to school.

Whilst MacKillop Catholic Primary School acknowledges that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that their child can contact them in emergency situations or in risk situations involving personal security and safety, this does not apply during the school day when students have access to school phones and personnel. It is recognised that students may need a mobile phone before or after school.

With a focus on the responsible use of technology, this document outlines the protocols for the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices by students whilst at school and is to be read in conjunction with the Catholic Education ICT Code of Practice.

Implementation Issues

- (1) All students will comply with the Diocesan ICT Code of Practice.
- (2) It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use mobile phones and other devices to menace, harass, or offend another person. Students must not use a mobile phone or any electronic device to engage in personal attacks, harass another person or post private information about another person using SMS messages, take or send photos or objectionable images or bully other students, or use vulgar, derogatory or obscene language while using a mobile phone or other electronic device.
- (3) Should a mobile phone/other electronic device need to be brought to school, the following procedure must be followed:
 - Permission must be sought from the Principal and a permission form must be signed by the parent/caregiver of the child concerned.
 - The mobile phone or electronic device must be handed in to the School Office on the student's arrival at school. Collection of the mobile phone or device at the end of the school day is the responsibility of the individual student.
 - Mobile phones and other electronic devices should be clearly marked with the child's name. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged devices.
- (4) In the event that wearable technology is brought to school and not handed in, it will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the day.
- (5) Under no circumstances is wearable technology permitted on camps or excursions.
- (6) Use of mobile phones on school camps is permitted at the discretion of the supervising teacher/s. In the event that use of a mobile phone is permitted, mobile phones must be handed in to the teacher in charge, given to the student at times deemed appropriate by the teacher and then collected by the teacher after a set period of time.

Reflection Material

ICT Code of Practice – Primary and Early Years