



Catherine McAuley
Catholic College
MEDOWIE

Mobile Phones at Catherine McAuley Catholic College

Guiding Principles

Does your child need a phone at high school?

No. Students are not required to have a phone. The student's device, purchased to meet the requirements of our BYOD policy, is more than enough to meet the needs of their learning. The decision for a student to have a mobile phone is purely one made by the child's parents/carers.

Will phones be used in class?

Typically, no. If the teacher believes that the use of a phone for a specific activity will enhance student learning, they may allow students to use their phones in place of their device. This is solely at the discretion of the teacher and is not considered the norm.

Can students use their phones in the recess and lunch break?

Yes. However, we encourage students to use this time to move around and socialise in person with their friends. There are rules however, to what the students cannot do on their phones at school.

Consideration may be given to technology free zones on campus.

What are students not allowed to do on their phones at school?

In short, we expect students to act safely, in the best interests of themselves and others, their learning and the College's reputation in the community.

Students are **not** permitted to:

- Use phones in class unless specifically directed to by the teacher.
- Take images or videos of other students.
- Make posts to social media platforms while at school or in their school uniform.
- Engage in any form of cyberbullying or harassment of others.

Why doesn't the College just ban them?

It sounds like a simple thing to do, however, what would this be teaching our young people? Mobile phones are ubiquitous in our society. We believe we have a responsibility to, with parents/carers, teach appropriate and healthy use of these devices. The College endeavours to educate, skill and empower young people on responsible use.



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What can families do to assist the College in managing mobile phone use?

Families can assist the College in teaching students to properly manage mobile phone use by having clear expectations of their child. We recommend the following:

- Families clearly and regularly communicate family expectations of their children's use of phones.
- Phones are not permitted in the bedroom. Studies clearly show the serious negative impact they have on sleep patterns.
- Parents/carers are aware of, connected to and educated on the social media platforms which students are using. We strongly encourage parents/carers regularly check their child's social media use and ensure both what their child is posting and consuming meets family expectations.

What action will the College take in cases of inappropriate use of mobile phones?

The College will take swift action to address inappropriate mobile phone and social media use. Consequence may vary from confiscation of a student's phone (to be collected by parents/carers), police involvement and suspension or expulsion from school.

Families are encouraged to work with the College to develop responsible mobile phone and social media use habits for all students.

If you have any further questions, please contact the College.