

O'CONNOR CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Mobile Phone/MP3/'iPod' Use Policy

Preamble:

Mobile phones/MP3/'iPods' are a part of modern society and the College accepts that some students will possess these devices. Mobile phones are a useful tool especially where the issue of safety is concerned. MP3/iPods can assist student concentration in certain circumstances. However, teachers and students have a right to teach and to learn in a school free from interruption by these devices.

Mobile phones/MP3/'iPods' in schools present a number of challenges. These include:

- Mobile phones/MP3/'iPods' interrupting lessons and disrupting the learning of others.
- Theft of Mobile phones/MP3/'iPods'.
- Inappropriate content being accessed by students via the internet.
- Mobile phones being used to contact outsiders who may enter the school illegally.
- Mobile phones/MP3/'iPods' disrupting examinations and assessment tasks or being used to cheat.
- Mobile phones/MP3/'iPods' being used to invade another student's privacy.
- Mobile phones being used to intimidate, bully and harass others, especially via text messaging & social networking sites such as Facebook.

O'Connor Catholic College encourages the responsible use of technology in line with ACMA (Australian Communication & Media Authority) guidelines. ACMA programs will be carried out in Pastoral Periods to educate students in the responsible use of technology.

POLICY:

In response to these challenges, the College has developed the following policy:

1. **The College accepts no responsibility** for Mobile phones/MP3/'iPods' that are brought to school or school related activities and undertakes no responsibility to investigate their misplacement, loss or theft. Students must take measures to ensure the security of their property.
2. **Mobile phones/MP3/'iPods' may be used during recess and lunchtimes**, however at any time staff may challenge the student on the content being used on the device. eg inappropriate internet or music content. If a student refuses to show the staff member the device will be confiscated and referred to the Assistant Principal.
3. **Mobile phones/MP3/'iPods' may not be used in the classroom** unless the classroom teacher gives permission. This will only be granted if the teacher feels there is an educational value in doing so. Students must ask the teachers permission to use the device. Wearing an MP3/'iPod' into a classroom will be considered inappropriate as will entering a classroom with a mobile phone in your hand. Mobile phones should be turned off and placed securely in a students bag or locker prior to class.
4. **Mobile phones/MP3/'iPods' must be used responsibly.** Any variation of this may incur a consequence including confiscation of the device. Filming another person or forwarding images without their permission is one such example of inappropriate use. (It is also illegal & may involve police consultation)
Where the device is used inappropriately the device will be confiscated by the teacher and be given to the Assistant Principal until the end of the day. A second offence will result in the device being confiscated for a week. Any subsequent offence will result in the device being secured in the school safe. The device will be returned, after one week, when the student's parents have contacted the college either in person or by telephone and have discussed the College's policy and the student's breach of it with the Assistant Principal or the Principal.
5. **During Formal examinations, Mobile phones/MP3/'iPods' must be switched off and placed in a box at the front of the room.**
6. **Where parents need to contact their children during the day**, or students need to contact their parents they are encouraged to do so during recess or lunch or by using the College's front office phone. Receiving calls/texts etc. during class time will be considered inappropriate and there will be appropriate consequence at the discretion of the Teacher.

O'Connor Catholic College is committed to constantly reviewing this policy to keep up with the rapid increase in the use of technological devices. The above policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff and students and that the learning environment of the College is free from interruption by these devices.