



## St Christopher's School

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### STUDENT MOBILE PHONE POLICY

#### RATIONALE

The use of mobile phones by students if used appropriately can enhance security in travelling to and from school. However, the misuse of mobile phones can disrupt the learning environment of the school. The potential misuse of mobile phones could lead to bullying and intimidating of other members of the school community through SMS or text messages, photographic, video or other data transfer systems available on the phone. For these reasons, the School Policy on the use of mobile phones centres on their complete non-use on the school premises and their use for only essential purposes in travelling to and from school.

#### DEFINITIONS

Mobile phones are devices used for not only telephone conversations but may also be used for the transmission of SMS or text messages, videotaping, photographic and other data transfer functions.

#### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The supervision policy seeks to:

- Appreciate the realisation of the need of many students to have a mobile phone in travelling to and from school.
- Highlight the conditions of the acceptance of student mobile phones in the school.
- Outline the procedure for students to follow in the use of mobile phones.
- Outline the procedure for staff to follow when students have failed to comply with the conditions of the use of mobile phones.

#### GUIDELINES

In the operation of this policy it is acknowledged that:

- Positive encouragement is one of the most effective means to promote within students a willingness to comply with the procedures stated below;
- Students should be allowed to take a mobile phone to and from school to enhance their own security and to assist in family organisation and communication;
- Correspondence to parents, via meetings and newsletters, is of paramount importance in gaining the support of parents so to minimise incidents of student misuse of mobile phones;
- Students have a responsibility to comply with the procedures below and that the school has the right to impose appropriate sanctions where these procedures are not followed.

## **PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

The procedures to follow in the implementation of the policy are:

- Mobile phones are only to be used for essential purposes to assist in family arrangements in travelling to and from school. They are not to be used for social purposes or non-essential phone calls.
- Students wishing to bring a mobile phone to school are to complete and return a School permission letter, with the number to be included in a School register of mobile phones.
- Students are to sign their mobile phone into and out of the School Office at the start and completion of the school day. The phone is to be turned off so to avoid any need to adjust the phone. The phone will be securely stored for the duration of the day.
- The School will accept no responsibility for a lost, stolen or damaged mobile phone. – No investigations will pursue on reported cases of lost, stolen or damaged phones.
- If a mobile phone is used in any way on School premises or if a mobile phone is found not to be turned off then the phone will be immediately confiscated and stored in the school safe. All staff members would be expected to follow this procedure irrespective of the justification provided by the student.
- The parent/s of the students who had the phone confiscated will be contacted on the day of confiscation and arrangements made for interview with the Principal or Assistant Principal whereby the phone will then be returned to the parent.
- Cases of misuse of a mobile phone, in terms of making unwanted calls, sending of unwanted messages or taking of photographs of other students will be reported to the Police. In addition, the School will take internal action in dealing with cases of harassment.