Mobile Phone Policy – At School

Mobile phones have become a part of everyday life. However, at St Mary’s we are determined to maintain a focused classroom environment uninterrupted by external communications. We also believe in the importance of face to face communication and interaction between students and their friends while they are at school.

While we recognise that it is sometimes necessary for a student to contact her parents during a school day, it is important that the following rules are adhered to.

1. Courtesy, consideration and respect for others are observed at all times.

2. Mobile phones
   (i) may be used in the grounds up until 8.30am or after 3.35pm.
   (ii) must be kept locked in lockers from 8.30am to 3.35pm.

   Therefore, mobile phones must not be taken into classrooms, assemblies, chapel or any other meeting.

   (iii) taken into a test or examination will result in a marks penalty in line with Curriculum Council practice.

   (iv) must not be used as cameras, except in special circumstances with the permission of a staff member.

   eg for farewelling an exchange student.

   (v) must not be used in the library, the IT centre or any classroom before 8.30am and after 3.35pm. If students need to use their phones at these times, they should do so outside.

   (vi) may be carried by students who have particular medical reasons to do so. This will require communication from parents to the Deputy Principal in order to gain approval.

3. Should a student need to contact her parents during the day, the call should be made before school or at recess or lunchtime at the locker. If this contact is urgent at another time, the student should come to Student Reception.

   Should parents wish to contact their daughter during the day they should leave a message on their daughter’s phone that she can access at recess or lunchtime.

   Should parents need to contact their daughter urgently, this should be done through Student Reception (tel: 9341 9106)

4. As with any personal property the school cannot take responsibility for the loss of a mobile phone. Parents should ensure that their daughters’ phones are insured as personal property.

If a student does not adhere to these rules, a teacher will confiscate the mobile phone and give it to the Deputy Principal.

The consequences are the mobile phone will be held for one day in the first instance and one week in the second. If a mobile phone were to be confiscated more than twice, consequences would follow discussion with daughter and parents.

26 April 2012