



# **St Nicholas Catholic High School**

## **Mobile Phone Policy 2023**

**To be read in conjunction with:**

Anti-Bullying Policy
Child on Child Abuse Policy
Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy
Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022)
Medicines Policy
Mental Health Policy
Searching, Screening & Confiscation Policy

*Note: The term 'phone' in this policy denotes mobile phones, iPods, MP3, MP4 player, fit bits and any similar portable electronic devices*

**Version Control**

Current version	Previous version	Summary of changes made
2023	2018	Inclusion of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022)
2023	2018	<p>Removal of:</p> <p>Mobile phones and, in particular, the new generation of smart phones, such as the iPhone, now include many additional functions such as an integrated camera, video recording capability, instant messaging, mobile office applications and mobile access to the internet. These allow immediate access to email, searching for information on the internet and other functions such as access to social networking sites e.g. Facebook, twitter and blogging sites.</p> <p>For many young people today the ownership of a mobile phone is considered a necessary and vital part of their social life. When used creatively and responsibly the smart phone has great potential to support a student's learning experiences. However, a rise in the number of incidents of misuse of mobile phones does present a number of problems for school: bullying, intimidation and harassment are not new in society; however bullying using a mobile phone represents a new challenge for schools to manage.</p> <p><b>Examples of misuse include:</b></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the deliberate engineering of situations where people's reactions are filmed or photographed in order to humiliate, embarrass and intimidate by publishing to a wider audience such as on Facebook or YouTube</li> <li>• bullying by text, image and email messaging</li> <li>• the use of a mobile phone for 'sexting' (the deliberate taking and sending of provocative images or text messages)</li> <li>• students posting material on social network sites with no thought to the risks to their personal reputation and sometimes with the deliberate intention of causing harm to others</li> <li>• making disrespectful comments, misrepresenting events or making defamatory remarks about teachers or other students</li> <li>• general disruption to learning caused by students accessing phones in lessons</li> <li>• pupils phoning parents immediately following an incident so that the ability of staff to deal with an incident is compromised</li> <li>• publishing photographs of vulnerable students, who may be on a child protection plan, where this may put them at additional risk</li> <li>• worry at responsibility for an expensive item.</li> <li>• potential for theft.</li> <li>• exam situation security</li> </ul>
2023	2018	<p>Inclusion of:</p> <p>Mobile phones are an integral part of society, and the majority of students own a mobile phone. We understand that, for safety reasons, students may wish to carry a mobile phone whilst travelling to and from school. Mobile phones can, however, lead to safeguarding and well-being concerns such as on-line bullying, disruption to lessons and inappropriate internet usage. Whilst we acknowledge the importance of mobile phones, the purpose of this policy is to ensure that the negative effect they can have is minimised within school. As a school, we strongly encourage our students to talk with one another and develop friendships during their free time, as opposed to using their mobile phones. As a result, the use of mobile phones on the school grounds is forbidden.</p>

2023	2018	Exclusion of exemplar communication with parents / carers
------	------	---

Policy Impact Statement	
<b>Policy:</b>	
<b>This Policy has been implemented:</b>	
Fully	
Partially	
Occasionally	
Not at all (give reasons why)	
<b>What revisions need to be made:</b>	
To the Policy?	See Version Control Above
To its implementation?	

## Rationale

St Nicholas Catholic High School is a strong, positive and friendly Catholic community. We are fully committed to equal opportunities and believe that every member of the school community has the right to realise their potential in a safe and happy environment.

## Introduction

Mobile phones are an integral part of society, and the majority of students own a mobile phone. We understand that, for safety reasons, students may wish to carry a mobile phone whilst travelling to and from school. Mobile phones can, however, lead to safeguarding and well-being concerns such as on-line bullying, disruption to lessons and inappropriate internet usage. Whilst we acknowledge the importance of mobile phones, the purpose of this policy is to ensure that the negative effect they can have is minimised within school. As a school, we strongly encourage our students to talk with one another and develop friendships during their free time, as opposed to using their mobile phones. As a result, the use of mobile phones on the school site is not allowed.

## Practice and Process

If a student in Years 7 – 11 chooses to bring a Mobile Phone onto school site, then the phone must be deposited at the Student Support Office as soon as they enter the school site.

Any student seen with a mobile phone on the school site will have the phone securely stored by Student Support until the end of that school day and issued with an After School Detention.

If a student persistently breaches this policy, it will be viewed as defiance; the appropriate sanction for defiance will be issued.

### **Sixth Form students**

Sixth Formers are permitted to use mobile phones within the study areas and common room. Under no circumstances should calls be made or received during lessons or in the corridors of the main school.

Reviewed by: Student Welfare & Progress Committee	Date: 26 January 2023
Ratified by Governing Body	Date: 29 March 2023
Review of Policy Due By	Date: March 2024