



ST PATRICK'S
Technical College

SACE ■ TRAINING ■ APPRENTICESHIPS

Policies & Procedures 5.17

Student Mobile Phone

Version 6: 29 November 2013
Ratified by Board of Directors: Feb 2014
Review Date: Feb 2017





INTRODUCTION

St Patrick's Technical College can make reasonable rules about what students can and cannot bring to College. St Patrick's Technical College can ban anything which is illegal, dangerous or is likely to cause disruption or harm to the smooth running of the College and the education of other students.

The use of mobile phones, iPods and similar mobile electronic devices in class is disruptive to the learning environment of all students and should be discouraged. Students wishing to use these devices in special circumstances should negotiate arrangements with relevant College staff.

St Patrick's Technical College accepts that parents / guardians give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also ever-increasing concern about children travelling alone on public transport or commuting long distances to College. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child quickly at any time.

The College will regularly advise students, parents and carers of their expectations in respect of these devices. They should also be reminded that no liability will be accepted by the College in the event of the loss, theft or damage of any device unless it can be established that the loss, theft or damage resulted from the College's negligence.

The College has developed a policy that provides guidelines for the appropriate use of mobile phones during College hours.

There are times when it is genuinely appropriate and beneficial for students to have access to a mobile phone. Students may, for example, need to contact parents in emergencies or to confirm or change a collection time after College. Mobile phone use should be restricted to times of genuine emergency.

POLICY

1. Students at St Patrick's Technical College will TURN OFF all mobile phones during lessons.
2. Mobile phones with cameras should be used responsibly. The Privacy Act protects students from having their photograph taken without consent.
3. Parents/guardians are reminded, in cases of emergency, the Administration Office is a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure a child can be reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.
4. Students are only permitted to use their mobile phones before or after College or at official break times i.e. recess and/or lunch.
5. Appropriate action will be taken against any student who photographs or films other individuals without their consent, downloads and displays inappropriate material including pornographic images or who sends harassing or threatening text (SMS) or multimedia (MMS) messages.
6. Students should ensure that their mobile phones are always stored in a safe and secure place.



Student Mobile Phone

Version 6: 29 November 2013
Ratified by Board of Directors: Feb 2014
Review Date: Feb 2017

7. Mobile phones are used at their owner's risk. No liability will be accepted by the College in the event of the loss, theft or damage of any device unless it can be established that the loss, theft or damage resulted from the College's negligence. Parents/guardians and students should ensure that mobile phones are properly and adequately insured as personal property.
8. This policy also applies to the use of mobile phones during work placement and/or Vocational and Technical Education (VTE) training, excursions, or other off campus supervised activities.
9. The Mobile Phone "Student Agreement", included as part of this policy, is to be signed by both student and his/her parent/guardian on commencement of attendance at the College.
10. Mobile phones may be collected and stored securely during lessons at the discretion of the teacher.

CONSEQUENCES

1. If a student is in breach of the Mobile Phone Policy he or she will be dealt with through the standard discipline guidelines of the College's Behaviour Education Policy.
2. A staff member may hold the phone for the duration of the lesson (ensuring its safety).
3. A student may be banned from bringing a mobile phone to College; parents will be contacted immediately to enforce this ban.

RELATED POLICIES

- *5.2 – Behaviour Management*
- *5.4 - Duty of Care / Health, Safety and Welfare*
- *5.5 - Anti-harassment / Anti-bullying*
- *5.11 - Student Code of Conduct*



APPENDIX 1

STUDENT AGREEMENT

St Patrick's Technical College acknowledges that Mobile Phones are carried by some students for safety reasons. There are concerns about their use at College; therefore, the College has a policy that phones are not to be switched on during College lesson times. Students and parents please carefully read and then sign the following agreement.

- I agree to the following:
- I will turn my mobile phone off during lesson times.
- I will use a mobile with an inbuilt camera responsibly at all times.
- I am responsible for looking after my phone whilst at College.
- If granted permission to use my phone, I will use it only as agreed.

If I break any of the terms of this agreement I acknowledge that my parents will be phoned and I will be banned from bringing my mobile onto College grounds.

Student name: _____

Student signature: _____

Date: _____

Acknowledged by parent / guardian:

I hereby acknowledge that I have read the agreement on student use of mobile phones and discussed it with my child. I recognise that every effort will be made to monitor student use of mobile phones. I understand that my son / daughter is responsible for the safety of the phone whilst at College. I agree to enforce bans or restrictions that the College has placed on my son / daughter's use of his / her mobile phone.

Parent / Guardian: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____