



## Star of the Sea College Policy Statement

### Students' Possession and Use of Mobile Phones

Ratified by College Board  
26<sup>th</sup> February 2007

Chairman: Mr Howard Nichol  
Principal: Mrs Tricia Phillips

#### Preamble

As mobile phones are a part of modern society our College accepts that many students will possess mobile phones. In many respects, these items are useful devices which have the potential to support the owners' safety and security, providing speedy contact when needed.

Parents are reminded that, in cases of emergency, the Star of the Sea College Office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact through which student contact can be readily made and any necessary appropriate assistance made available.

#### Policy

At Star of the Sea College we prefer students not to have mobile phones at school. We maintain that, in the school setting, these devices have the potential to provide a source of distraction, to disrupt teaching and learning, to disturb the focus of the school day. However, recognizing the range of situations that may exist, we operate with the following policy:

1. Students are not encouraged to bring mobile phones to school. However, with parents' knowledge and agreement, a student may carry a mobile phone in his/her school bag throughout the school day. The College accepts no responsibility for mobile phones brought to school and undertakes no responsibility to investigate any misplacement or loss.
2. The phone in the school bag is to remain switched off during the school day. It may not be used for any purpose on school premises, within the College environment or during off-site activities conducted as part of the College programme.
3. A student needing to have access to his/her mobile phone for any specific purpose during the school day is required to leave the phone in safe keeping at the College Office during school hours. The student is invited, during breaks, to check the phone for messages. Office personnel will make arrangements for the student to use the Office phone should any outgoing calls be necessary.
4. Any College student using a mobile phone in any way which breaches the requirements detailed above will be required to relinquish that phone for a week. Parents will be informed and asked to make arrangements for its collection at the set time. A repeat infringement may result in withdrawal of the privilege of bringing a phone to school.
5. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. Mobile phones are not to be used to take photos in any situation that may cause embarrassment or discomfort to fellow students, College staff or visitors. Any such instances will be addressed through the College's Behaviour Management policy. Parents will be informed as a matter of urgency and, as appropriate, any such behaviours will be referred for police attention.

#### Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement

I have read and understand the policy statement about the appropriate use of mobile phones at Star of the Sea College and acknowledge and support the related procedures and sanctions. I give my child permission to carry a mobile phone to College on occasion. I understand that my child, aware of both the requirements and consequences, will be responsible for ensuring that the mobile phone is used fully in accordance with the College policy.

Child's Name.....

Year Level.....

Parent's/ Guardian's Signature.....

Date.....