



St Patrick's College
LAUNCESTON

MOBILE PHONE & OTHER DEVICES PROTOCOL

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MOBILE PHONE & OTHER DEVICES PROTOCOL

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RESPONSIBLE/ BREACHES REPORTABLE TO:	Deputy Principal Wellbeing & Leadership	SCHEDULED REVIEW DATE:	October 2025

PURPOSE

St Patrick's College acknowledges that mobile phones and other devices are widely accepted for recreational, personal, educational and communication purposes. However, a wealth of research continues to emerge regarding the negative effects on emotional wellbeing, social intelligence, academic achievement, and brain development. The College's task is to prepare our young people for the digital and globalised society of the 21st century while continuing to develop the interpersonal skills and social behaviours required to succeed as learners and responsible members of the community.

Students bring mobile phones and other devices to school by personal choice. These devices utilise smartphone technology, which provides easy access to various forms of communication, including social media, text messages and phone calls. Research indicates that these forms of communication have a place in the lives of our young people. Still, in the school environment, they are a distraction to the learning process and an impediment to the development of healthy social interaction and peer relationships.

It is critical to establish boundaries to ensure our students' appropriate and safe use of devices and to educate them on the dangers of device misuse. Our staff, as educators, also have the responsibility to model the appropriate use of mobile phones and other devices at the College.

PROTOCOL STATEMENT – FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 7-9

Procedures for the Use of *Mobile Phones and Other Devices* by Students 7-9

1. Year 7-9 students are not permitted to take their mobile phones or other devices to the classroom or Tutor groups and may not use their mobile phones or other devices during recess or lunch.
2. Under teacher direction, times may arise when technology is supplementary to the learning experience.
3. Year 7-9 students must store their mobile phones in their lockers once they arrive at the College until 3:20pm each school day.
4. Year 7-9 students are only permitted to access their mobile phones at their lockers during recess and lunch and only to check for messages from home.



5. Year 9 students have the additional privilege of being able to contact home during break times, if required, at Croagh Patrick's Student Reception.
6. Mobile phones or devices with camera technology must not be used to take pictures or record video or audio of any St Patrick's College community member unless those persons have given permission as per the Student ICT Acceptable Use Agreement.
7. Due to safety concerns (i.e. blocking out traffic noise), students are encouraged not to listen to music on mobile phones when walking to or from College.
8. Mobile phones or other devices must not be taken into any formal examination or test environments as they may contain materials that breach examination conditions. Students who take mobile phones into an examination or test environment risk losing all marks for that exam, in addition to other consequences.
9. St Patrick's College will not accept any responsibility for the loss or damage of mobile phones and will not advertise lost devices in any form of media.

PROCEDURE

Contravening Mobile Phone & Other Devices Protocol

Students in breach of the conditions of the *Mobile Phone & Other Devices Protocol* are subject to the actions outlined below. The following are the instructions for St Patrick's College staff to manage this Protocol.

1. If a Year 7-9 student has their mobile phone with them during the school day (from arrival until 3:20pm), and they are not at their locker:
 - a. immediately confiscate the device and;
 - b. take the device to Student Reception and label the envelope provided with the student's name. Student Reception staff will fill in the other details and log the information into the Mobile Confiscation Sheet. The student can collect their device after 3:20pm by taking their Student ID Card to Student Reception.
 - c. The PA to the Deputy Principal - Wellbeing & Leadership will record the details onto the student's Pastoral Care record and email their House Head with the number of times the student's phone has been confiscated.
2. On the third instance of a student's device being confiscated, a phone call will be made to the parent/guardian by the House Head to arrange the collection of the phone and arrange a meeting.
3. Continued breaches of this Protocol represent a behaviour management issue and will result in further consequences.

Any student who fails to comply with the reasonable instruction of a staff member acting by the conditions of the Years 7-9 Students – *Mobile Phone and Other Devices Protocol* will be dealt with by the *Managing Student Defiance Protocol*.

PROTOCOL STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 10-12 (SENIOR STUDENTS)

Procedures for the Use of Mobile Phones and Other Devices by Senior School Students

1. Senior School students are not permitted to use their mobile phones in Tutor or the classroom.
2. Senior School students are only permitted to access their mobile phones or other devices at recess, lunchtime, and on a study break in the following locations: Edmund Rice Centre (ERC), ERC Courtyard, the Brady Wing, Library, or when purchasing food at the Canteen. All other areas around the College are mobile or other device-free zones. Senior School students are expected to model behaviour to the younger grades.

3. Mobile phones or devices with camera technology must not be used to take pictures or record video or audio of any St Patrick's College community member unless those persons have given permission as per the *Student ICT Acceptable Use Agreement*.
4. Due to safety concerns (i.e. blocking out traffic noise), students are encouraged not to listen to music on mobile phones when walking to or from College.
5. St Patrick's College will not accept any responsibility for the loss or damage of mobile phones and will not advertise lost devices in any form of media.

PROCEDURE

Contravening Mobile Phone & Other Devices Protocol

Senior School students in breach of the conditions of the *Mobile Phone & Other Device Protocol* will be subject to the actions outlined below. The following are the instructions for St Patrick's College staff in the management of these protocols:

1. If the student uses their mobile phone or other devices during class time, in the first instance, immediately confiscate the device and return it to the student at the end of the period and discuss the expectations regarding mobile phones or other devices not being used during class time.
2. In the instance of repeat offences by a student, please manage accordingly.
 - a. Immediately confiscate the device
 - b. Take the device to Student Reception and label the envelope provided with the student's name and Tutor group. The student will be able to collect their device after 3:20pm by taking their Student ID Card to Student Reception. The PA to the Deputy Principal - Wellbeing & Leadership will record the details onto the student's Pastoral Care record and email their House Head with the number of times the student's phone has been confiscated.
3. On the third instance of a student's device being confiscated, a phone call will be made to the parent/guardian by the House Head to organise the collection of the phone and arrange a meeting.
4. Continued breaches of this Protocol represent a behaviour management issue and will result in further consequences.

Any student who fails to comply with the reasonable instruction of a staff member acting by the conditions of the *Mobile Phone & Other Device Protocol* will be dealt with by the *Managing Student Defiance Protocol*.