



Mobile Phone and Earphone Policy

In order to build a culture of high expectations, all members of the Aquinas community must support and adhere to the College policy for the appropriate use of mobile technologies and digital devices in all facets of College life. Parents / Caregivers are expected to support the *Mobile Phone and Earphone Policy* and its implementation as a condition of their child's enrolment.

The College reserves the right to incorporate any new technologies or devices within the definitions of this College policy. References to Mobile Phones and earphones includes mobile phones, smartwatches, speakers, earphones and any devices, other than those devices issued to students by Aquinas College.

The College stance is that issues of concern associated with such devices include the potential for: disruption to the teaching and learning environment, theft, privacy, child protection, (cyber)bullying, sensory impairment, anti-social behaviours, internet filtering, the transfer or downloading and viewing of inappropriate materials and interference with the approved communication processes of the College.

It is a College expectation that the parents and caregivers educate their child about their digital footprint and the responsible use of technologies. Mobile phones and other digital devices should not be used to send menacing, harassing or offensive messages, take inappropriate images or video of persons, or put the College into disrepute.

In reference to devices owned and distributed by Aquinas College, the College reserves the right to determine appropriate use and installation of software and applications. Please refer to the *Acceptable Use of Computer and Internet Resources Policy*. Devices owned and distributed by the College cannot be used during break times except in the College Library.

It must be noted that Aquinas College is not liable for any loss, damage, and/or theft of mobile phones, digital devices and/or earphones used during transportation, on the College grounds or at College events pursuant to this policy. Students, Parents / Caregivers are reminded that these items are not covered by College insurance and should be locked and stored in lockers when on College grounds.

Responsibility and accountability

- Courtesy, consideration and respect for others is always paramount when using any electronic device.
- Mobile phones, digital devices and earphones must not to be used, seen or heard in the classroom or College grounds between 8.30am – 3.00pm, unless at the discretion of a staff member.
- Students are not to record, photograph or publish images or video footage of students or staff members without the person's consent. Students must respect the confidentiality, trust and privacy of all members of the Aquinas College community. Consequences for these actions can include suspension or possible police action.
- Students must not use their mobile phone's internet access or use Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) to operate outside the BCE network whilst on College grounds.
- Students are expected to comply respectfully with staff instructions regarding mobile phones, digital devices and earphones.
- Parents and Caregivers must not contact their children directly via mobile devices during school hours. All Parent/Caregiver communication from 8.30am – 3.00pm must be addressed through SAO (Student Administration Office) or Reception.



- Student arriving late or departing early from the College must have this registered through the Parent Portal / BCE Connect App. A parent phone call or text on a student's mobile phone will not be accepted in SAO.

Consequences for Non-Compliance with College Mobile Phone and Earphone Policy

Mobile phones and earphones must remain in lockers for the school day (8.30am to 3.00pm). If a student is using their mobile phone or earphones without teacher permission, they will be asked to take their mobile phone to SAO for the day. The mobile phone or earphones can be collected at 3.00pm by the student, Parent / Caregiver (depending on the level of the infringement). The infringement will be recorded and the following process will be taken:

