## **Mobile Phone/Electronic Device Policy**



### PURPOSE

Ambrose Treacy College (the College) embraces the benefits of technology and acknowledges the potential of Mobile Phones/Electronic Devices (devices) to positively contribute to, and when used purposefully, enrich learning in the classroom. The College is also mindful of the potential distractions that Devices present, in addition to more serious negative impacts on students and the community when Devices are used to video without consent, post content online and/or to bully or harass others. To minimise risks associated with using devices at school, the College has established the following policy to support student use of devices including (but not limited to) mobile phones, smart watches connected to data and earphones connected wirelessly during school hours. It is the responsibility of the student, parents to read and support this policy.

In this Policy the term 'Parent' refers to parents and/or caregivers.

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- In using their devices students are accountable to act within the identified College Formation Framework, where respect and relationships are key values.
- The College reserves the right to confiscate any devices suspected of containing content relating to an offence that may be considered illegal or contrary to College expected behaviours
- Staff will confiscate any mobile phones that are 'heard or seen' outside of the conditions stated in this document between 8:00am and 3.00pm. Staff will follow consequences outlined in the Student Support Cycle for repeated offences and continued defiance.

#### PERSONAL SAFETY AND SECURITY

The College accepts that parents provide their child/ren with devices to protect them from safety risks and for everyday personal security; including travelling alone on public transport or commuting long distances to and from school. It is acknowledged that providing children with a device gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently. However, the College accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged devices at school, including travel to and from school.

- Any student bringing a device to school is totally responsible for the care and security of that device.
- In cases of emergency the College requires parents to contact College Reception and/or Senior School Reception rather than students directly. Students are not to answer texts or calls during class time. This includes the use of smart watches.
- It is strongly advised that students use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their devices (e.g., by other students if stolen). Students must keep their password/pin numbers confidential; devices and/or passwords should not be shared.

#### **COLLEGE EXPECTATIONS**

- Mobile phones must be switched to silent during the school day. Junior School students may hand their phone to their classroom teacher to look after during the school day. They must not be used in any manner or place that is disruptive to the normal routines of the College or to other people.
- Students are not permitted to use their mobile phone/smart watch to tap and pay at the Tuckshops. They will need to have their Student ID card (refer to <u>Student ID Payment Set Up</u> for instructions) or a credit/debit card to purchase goods.
- Students are not permitted to use devices during examinations, carnivals, school excursions or camps unless directed by a staff member. Arrangements will be in place for communication with staff members in the case of an emergency.
- The use of devices in a whole school emergency or evacuation is expressly forbidden.

# **Mobile Phone/Electronic Device Policy**



- Students may use their mobile phones in class if directed by their teacher for educational purposes.
- Students may also access their mobile phone at break times to communicate with parents, check their timetable or the College App. This must only occur at their locker or in the presence of a teacher.
- Smart watches must not be connected to a student's mobile phone or data. Students receiving notifications during class time may be asked to remove their watch and give it to the teacher.