MOBILE DEVICE POLICY

Rooted in Christ and Catholic tradition and under the guidance of its patron, St Edmund’s aims to realise the God-given potential, in body, mind and spirit, of all members of its community through service and leadership.

Avita Pro Fide

St Edmund’s is committed to ensuring the welfare and protection of children in their care and this commitment is a fundamental part of the role of every employee.

Modern technology is such that there will be frequently new products with internet capability on the market, such as watches. Where this policy makes reference to internet use via mobile phones, the same applies to any digital device with this capability.

Device refers to phones or any internet capable device.

St Edmund’s recognises that many of its pupils travel long distances to the College and the ability to use a mobile device to stay in touch with relatives and to arrange transport is important. St Edmund’s is also aware of the dominance of mobile communication in modern life.

However, the use of devices throughout the day is not necessarily beneficial to the St Edmund’s community. Furthermore, the inappropriate use of devices, particularly the communication of material with the potential to damage others and the reputation of the College, is unacceptable and will be subject to disciplinary action.

Use of mobile devices by St Edmund’s Prep pupils

St Edmund’s Prep pupils are not permitted to have mobile devices at school unless they are on the afternoon bus, in which case the College understands their usefulness if needed to inform parents of any unforeseen changes to the bus schedule once pupils are en route. The devices must, however, be handed in to the class teacher during morning registration and collected after school.

Use of mobile devices by St Edmund’s College pupils

Responsibility for the device lies with the student at all times. All pupils require a classroom device that is not their mobile device. This may be a tablet or a laptop. All devices that are not the student’s classroom device should be kept in their locker throughout the school day. If a mobile phone is used by a student in school during the school day it will be confiscated and can be collected from Reception at 4.30pm. Repeated confiscations will result in disciplinary sanctions.

Pupils should not capture media involving others without their consent. Such media should not be posted without consent and even where consent is given, the person posting must ensure that it is appropriate to do so.

No offensive, discriminatory or threatening language should be used on any postings.

There may be occasions, for example on trips and at social events when devices may be used. The device user is responsible for ensuring that they use the device appropriately.
If pupils use their classroom device in House areas they should not be used inappropriately and in particular may never be used:-

- to capture any media, including, but not exclusive to photographs, video, music, without permission;
- to send inappropriate words, pictures or other media to others;
- to hurt or bully others by the sending of messages, pictures or other media;
- interfere with College property.

Sanctions

Inappropriate use may result in the full range of sanctions laid out in the school’s Behaviour Policy. In particular, misuse of a mobile device may lead to its confiscation for a period of time usually no longer than one day. The device may be collected by the student or in more serious cases by asking the parent to collect the device. Bullying through the use of a device is the same as bullying in any other way and will attract the sanctions as laid down in the school policy on bullying.

Technology confiscation protocol

When confiscating any technology, where there is a concern regarding content of the device, it is important to recognise the ease with which devices can be remotely accessed or wiped. Upon confiscation, the member of staff must instruct the student to log into the device and place the device onto “airplane mode”, or the equivalent, to block data transmission to or from the device. The device can then be powered down and, where possible, the battery should be removed pending any future searches or submission to authorities as required.

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