



POLICY: STUDENT CELL PHONE POLICY

Rationale

Trinity Catholic College recognises that student cell phones can be detrimental to a settled classroom learning environment, and the misuse of cell phone social media apps can cause wellbeing issues among young people.

Trinity Catholic College is committed to supporting strong engagement with teaching and learning, and promoting respectful and positive relationships and communication between peers that reflects the college values.

Objectives

- To reflect current government regulations pertaining to student cell phones in school
- To ensure that cell phones and related digital devices do not distract from learning
- To support positive relationships and face-to-face communication skills

Expectations and Limitations

- Cell phones and earbuds/headphones must be turned off and remain in bags during the hours of 8.30am and 3pm while on site. This includes students who are on a school course, or on a school visit or curriculum activity outside the classroom
- On overnight EOTC trips, students may be permitted to have access to their phones at specific times as set by the staff member in charge of the trip. This permission will be communicated to students and parents or caregivers within trip information
- Documentation
- The only time when a cell phone can be used at school, is to support identified learning or health needs
- The only time when earbuds/headphones can be used is with BYOD devices for learning activities as directed by the teacher
- The Principal may issue an exemption card to a student when it has been determined that a student's learning or health needs require the use of a cell phone or earbuds/headphones
- Students are strongly encouraged to leave cell phones at home
- The school takes no responsibility for the loss or damage of any student cell phone, earbuds or headphones brought to school
- Infringements against this policy will result in discipline actions being taken

Review:

This policy will be reviewed according to the Trinity Catholic College Board triennial programme of self-review.

Review Date: February 2025

Ratified by Board: Signed for Board

Date: 21 February 2024

Responsibility:	Board of Trinity Catholic College
Reviewed:	February 2024
Next review date:	February 2025
Policy:	Student Cell Phone

Related Documentation

- Government regulations “Phones away for the day”
<https://www.education.govt.nz/school/digital-technology/cellphones/>
- Government legislation
<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2023/0294/latest/LMS927327.html#LMS927326>