


Christ Our Holy Redeemer Primary School	System Update: 2025	
Version 0.3	Date of Next Review: 2029	

Christ Our Holy Redeemer Primary School Student Mobile Phone and Internet Enabled Devices Policy

Rationale

At Christ Our Holy Redeemer, we aim to empower our students to engage and learn with confidence, courage and empathy by providing an education that inspires them to become global citizens. This policy acknowledges that technology is increasingly affecting how students learn and communicate, with both positive and negative implications and should be read in line with our Christ Our Holy Redeemer Primary School Digital Devices, Internet & Digital Media Acceptable Use Agreement.

An increasing number of parents/guardians wish to provide their children with mobile phones or internet enabled devices such as smart watches with messaging, internet and Bluetooth capabilities for safety, security and/or emergency. This policy details the conditions under which these devices are permitted at Christ Our Holy Redeemer.


The school discourages students from bringing mobile phones, smart watches, and other internet enabled devices to school. We take the safe and responsible use of digital technologies, student safety and well being very seriously. We also have an emphasis on developing positive social skills and positive behaviours. Such devices can cause disruption in classrooms and the playground and can be used inappropriately to access social media and take photos without permission. This can cause distress and breach the privacy of others. The unregulated presence of personal devices in the school can undermine students' capacity to think, learn, remember, pay attention and regulate emotion. Mobile phones were banned for all students at Victorian state primary and secondary schools by the Victorian Government, from Term 1 2020, to help reduce distraction, tackle cyber bullying and improve learning outcomes for students.

Mobile phones and internet enabled devices are important modern day communication tools that can provide safety for students as they move from school to home at the beginning and end of each day. However, they can easily be improperly used, lost or damaged and must therefore be effectively managed.

Definitions

A mobile phone is a telephone or device with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a connection to the internet.

Internet Enabled Devices include portable and wearable devices with messaging, internet or bluetooth capabilities. They may include digital watches, fitness trackers, portable computer games, ipods, cameras and any other similar devices as they come into use.


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Procedures

1. Christ Our Holy Redeemer discourages students from bringing mobile phones and internet enabled devices.
2. Permission must be granted for any mobile phone or internet enabled device to be brought to school.
3. If permitted by the school, mobile phones, portable and wearable internet enabled devices must be turned off during school hours. They must be signed in to the office before school begins and collected at the end of the day.
4. If students have permission to bring a mobile phone or device to school, the school will provide secure storage.
5. Mobile phones and wearable devices with messaging, internet or bluetooth capabilities may only be turned on and used out of school hours, before 8:45am and after 3:20pm, when not on school property.
6. Students who have permission to use their phone during school hours (eg for a medical reason) will have their phone use monitored by staff.
7. While at school, school staff have a duty of care towards all students. Any instances that require emergency contact with parents MUST be through the appropriate staff member or a member of administration, who will make the appropriate call to parents or carers.
8. If a parent or caregiver needs to contact a student at school as a result of an emergency, they are required to call the school's main office and a message will be given to the student in an appropriate manner.
9. Devices are not to be used by other students.
10. Phones and portable and wearable devices are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carers) risk. The school does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft. The school does not accept responsibility for any theft, loss or damage of mobile phones, portable or wearable devices.

In line with the Christ Our Holy Redeemer Primary School Digital Devices, Internet & Digital Media Acceptable Use Agreement, Inappropriate use of phones or internet enabled devices may result in:

- Confiscation of the mobile phone or internet enabled device until the end of the school day.
- Confiscation of the mobile phone or internet enabled device until such time as the parent or caregiver is able to attend school to collect the device.
- The Principal revoking a student's privilege of bringing mobile phones or internet enabled devices to school.
- Other disciplinary action in cases where students have bullied or threatened or harassed other students or staff via the mobile phone or other personal communication device or where the device has been used to take photographs or display inappropriate material.

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Specific Exceptions

This policy applies to *all* students in the school unless there is a compelling reason, such as a health or wellbeing reason. Exceptions can only be granted by the Principal. Students will only be permitted to bring a mobile phone, portable or internet enabled device to school premises for serious health, safety, security or emergency purposes (*e.g. the child/ren walking or riding home or part of the way from school without adult supervision, arriving home to an empty house, or staying at another parent's home in the case of separated families*).

Where a student has been granted an exception, the student must use their mobile phone and internet enabled device for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical and responsible manner. The procedures listed above must be followed.

In order for a student to bring a mobile phone or wearable device with messaging, internet or Bluetooth capabilities to school, parents/carers need to write to the Principal requesting permission for the child to have the device at school.

See **Appendix 1: Student Mobile Phone & Internet Enabled Device Permission Note**


The categories of exceptions allowed are:

1. Learning related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation Required
e.g. Students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	Personalised Learning Plans

2. Health and wellbeing related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation Required
e.g. Students with a health condition	MACS Student Health Support Plan

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3. Safety related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation Required
e.g. Students walking or riding to and/or from school without adult supervision. Students arriving home to an empty house.	A completed Appendix 1: Student Mobile Phone & Internet Enabled Device Permission Note will suffice and the mobile phone or internet enabled device will be stored in the office during school hours.

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Christ Our Holy Redeemer School will provide students and their parents and carers with information about items that can or cannot be brought to camps, excursions and other extracurricular events, including personal mobile phones and internet enabled devices. This will be determined by risk assessment planning documentation.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to:

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four-year review cycle.

Related legislation

- Education and Training and Reform Act 2006 (Vic)
- Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic)

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Appendix 1: Student Mobile Phone & Internet Enabled Device Permission Note

To the Principal

I wish to apply for an exception for my child _____ in Class _____

to have permission to bring the following device to school _____

_____.

Please provide a health, safety, wellbeing or learning reason that a mobile phone or internet enabled device is required at school for your child:

I have read COHR’s Student Mobile Phone and Internet Enabled Devices Policy and agree with the principles and sanctions. I understand that the school does not accept responsibility for any theft, loss or damage of Mobile Phones or Internet Enabled Devices.

Parent signature: _____

Parent Mobile Phone Contact: _____

Date: _____