St Patrick's College
LAUNCESTON

MOBILE PHONE & OTHER DEVICES PROTOCOL

AUGUST 2026 | V1.9

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MOBILE PHONE AND "OTHER" DEVICES PROTOCOL

VERSION NUMBER:	**1.9**	**APPROVED BY:**	**Leadership Team**
DRAFTED BY:	**Leadership Team**	**DATE APPROVED:**	**Aug 2026**
RESPONSIBLE/ BREACHES REPORTABLE TO:	**Deputy Principal Wellbeing & Leadership**	**SCHEDULED REVIEW DATE:**	**Aug 2029**

PURPOSE

St Patrick's College acknowledges the use of mobile phones and "other" devices are widely accepted in today's society for recreational, personal, educational and communication purposes. However, a wealth of research continues to emerge regarding the negative effects on emotional wellbeing, social intelligence, academic achievement and brain development. It is the task of the College to prepare our young people for the digital and globalised society of the 21st century while continuing to develop the interpersonal skills and social behaviours required to succeed as learners and responsible members of the community.

We are committed to teaching our students to use technology safely, responsibly and ethically. This includes mobile phones and "other" devices students bring to school by personal choice, which utilize smartphone technology and provides easy access to various forms of communication, including social media, text messages and phone calls. Research indicates that these forms of communication have a place in the lives of our young people, but in the classroom, they are a distraction to the learning process.

It is critical to establish boundaries to ensure appropriate and safe student use of devices and to educate on the dangers of device misuse. Our staff, as educators, also have the responsibility to model the appropriate use of personal communication devices at the College.

PROTOCOL STATEMENT

Students are not permitted to take their mobile phones or "other" devices (including Smart Watches) to the classroom or Tutor Group.

1. All students will store their mobile phones or "other" devices in their locker from the time they arrive at the College until 3.20 pm. Smart Watches if worn must be in flight mode until 3:20 pm.
2. Students may not have their mobile phone mirrored to their laptop.
3. Students are permitted to use their mobile phones at the College Canteen on their way to their locker to purchase breakfast or order their lunch. Mobile phones then need to be placed in the student 's locker for the remainder of the College day.

4. Year 10-12 Students are only permitted to access their mobile phones at Recess or Lunch time, while at their locker, to check messages.
5. Mobile phones or "other" devices with camera technology must not be used to take pictures or record video or audio of any St Patrick's College community member unless those persons have given permission as per the Student ICT Acceptable Use Agreement.
6. Due to safety concerns (i.e. blocking out traffic noise), students are encouraged not to listen to music on personal communication devices when walking to or from school.
7. Mobile phones or "other" devices must not be brought into any formal examination or test environments. They may contain materials that are in breach of examination conditions. Students who take personal communication devices into an examination or test environment risk losing all marks for that exam in addition to other consequences.
8. St Patrick's College will not accept any responsibility for the loss or damage of a personal communication device and will not advertise lost devices in any form of media.
9. Mobile phones or "other" devices may not be used by any student while representing the College at events including, but not limited to, sports and excursions, whether at the College or at another venue. This covers out of hours events and travel to and from events under College staff supervision (e.g. by bus).
10. Mobile phones or "other" devices if taken to PE or other subjects during Periods 5 and 6 need to be handed into the classroom teacher prior to entering the Changerooms or any other teaching space.
11. Ear buds are not to be used during break times or during class times. Ear buds may be used in Year 10-12 classes, when requested by the teacher, for learning purposes only.

CONTRAVENING THE MOBILE PHONE AND "OTHER" DEVICE PROTOCOL

Students in breach of the Mobile Phone or "Other" Devices Protocol conditions will be subject to the actions outlined below. The following are the instructions for St Patrick's College staff in the management of these protocols:

a. If the student has their mobile phone or "other" devices with them during class time:
   i Immediately confiscate the device and have the student turn the device off.
   ii Take the device to Student Reception and label the envelope provided with the student's name and Tutor Group. The student will be able to collect their device after 3:20pm by taking their Student ID Card to Student Reception.
b. For students in Year 7-9, on the third instance of a device being confiscated and taken to the Office, the student's parents will be contacted and asked to collect the phone from reception. Continued breaches of these protocols represent a behaviour management issue and will result in further consequences.
c. For students in Year 10-12, on the third instance of a device being confiscated and taken to the Office, a Level 2 (Tuesday detention) will be issued. Continued breaches of these protocols represent a behaviour management issue and result in further consequences.
d. Any student who fails to comply with the reasonable instruction of a staff member acting in accordance with the conditions of the *Mobile Phone or "Other" Devices Protocol* will be dealt with by the *Managing Student Defiance Protocol.*

Please take note of GUIDELINES FOR MOBILE PHONE/OTHER DEVICES USE WHILE TRAVELLING