



**ST DOMINIC'S
PRIORY COLLEGE**

EDUCATING GIRLS, INSPIRING CONFIDENCE

inspiring confidence

ST DOMINIC'S PRIORY COLLEGE

MOBILE PHONE & PERSONAL DEVICES POLICY

LAST REVIEW DATE	NEXT REVIEW DATE
November 2024	2026
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	College Principal

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We acknowledge St Dominic's Priory College is situated on Kaurna Land and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.



OUR MISSION

A Catholic College educating girls in the Dominican Tradition.

OUR VISION

Inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we are a girls' College committed to truth and compassion. In the spirit of St Dominic, we contemplate the possibilities and honour the sacred dignity of each person through word and action. We aspire to provide an innovative, rigorous and inclusive education that leads girls and young women to achieve excellence in their studies and confidence in their future.

OUR VALUES

As a Dominican community we value:

- A sense of the sacred; joyful, eucharistic and reflective.
- A love of learning through creative and critical thinking.
- Modelling a eucharistic community as the basis of transformation.
- Teaching the truth, by word and example.

Further information about the College's principles and objectives can be found within the [2021 – 2025 Strategic Plan](#).

GOVERNANCE

Dominican Education Australia (DEA) is the governing authority of St Dominic's Priory College, an independent Catholic School. A Board of Directors, established in 1987, governs the College which is incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cwlth)*. The Trustees of DEA and the College Board of Directors assures our Catholicity, fidelity to the Dominican charism, formation of Board members, excellence in teaching and learning and financial stability.

For more information about DEA visit: <https://dominicaneducationaustralia.com/>

CHILD SAFE

We are a Child Safe employer and are committed to the welfare and protection of children and young people. The College is committed to upholding a diverse and inclusive learning environment, ensuring children and young people are valued and respected. In accordance with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, all employees are required to comply with the College's relevant policies and procedures.

To read the College's **Safeguarding Commitment Statement** in full, and access *College Policies, Procedures* and other resources, please [click here](#).

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1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy applies to all students enrolled at St Dominic's Priory College and extends to all school activities, including curriculum extension activities and out of normal school hours official school functions. It is supported by parents/caregivers and staff working within or for St Dominic's Priory College.

2. RATIONALE

- 2.1 The College aims to educate and support students to become informed, safe, respectful and responsible digital citizens and to learn healthy, moderated use of digital media and technologies.
- 2.2 The College is committed to optimising the conditions for connection and belonging, enabling students to learn how to be active co-contributors to a 'face to face' community.
- 2.3 The College is committed to reducing distractions in the learning environment, and optimising student learning.
- 2.4 While mobile digital devices are valuable communication tools with numerous benefits for the wider community, it is acknowledged that their use in a school setting requires appropriate restrictions and clear boundaries for students. Mobile digital device use in schools has the potential to disrupt student wellbeing and interfere with the learning process.

Some of the risks and harms of mobile digital devices include:

- 2.4a distraction from schoolwork;
 - 2.4b impediment to good physical health;
 - 2.4c negative impact on mental health;
 - 2.4d decreased face-to-face social interaction;
 - 2.4e exposure to inappropriate material; and
 - 2.4f cyberbullying.
- 2.5 This Policy aims to support students to focus on their learning without added distractions. It also aims to enable teachers to teach without distractions from unsanctioned technology and to promote safety, wellbeing, and privacy.
 - 2.6 The St Dominic's Priory College Mobile and Personal Devices Policy is supported by the South Australian Government's [Mobile Phones and Personal Devices in Schools Policy](#) which states:

"Students at all public schools must keep their mobile phones and other personal devices, such as smart watches, switched off and put away while they're at school. The policy also applies when students are attending school camps or excursions."

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 MOBILE AND PERSONAL DEVICES

Mobile and personal devices include smartphones, smartwatches, wireless head/earphones, and mobile tablets and other digital devices with capability of connecting to a cellular communication network.

This policy makes a distinction between personal use devices that often have independent internet connectivity which bypasses the school's internet filter and devices that are provided by the school and/or authorised by the school as part of teacher-directed educational activities.

3.2 COLLEGE GROUNDS

College grounds include all areas of the school property and extends to school excursions, camps, sports carnivals and other events off the school site, where an approved school activity is taking place.

3.3 UNAUTHORISED USE

Unauthorised use includes the following:

- 3.3.a Students using mobile and/or personal devices, without permission or exemption, on College grounds.
- 3.3b Students using mobile and/or personal devices without permission of the individual, to photograph, video/voice record any member of the College community. This includes sharing or uploading any type of material to a social media platform.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

- 4.1 The development of interpersonal skills is integral to the holistic educational approach adopted by the College and mobile and/or personal devices need to be managed so as not to impede this aim.
- 4.2 Mobile and/or personal devices would not normally be seen or heard on College grounds. Students are required to turn off their mobile phones and watches during the day and place them in their lockers (*Off and Away or While School is on, Phones are Off*). It is anticipated that students will be able to form habits that differentiate when it is appropriate to use mobile and/or personal devices and when it is not.
- 4.3 At all times any permissible use of mobile and/or personal devices must be in keeping with community legal requirements, the Catholic Dominican ethos and the culture of the College.
- 4.4 School-issued devices and approved BYOD devices should only be used for educational purposes linked to a student's formal lessons. Gaming, downloading or watching personal films/programs is not permitted.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The following roles and responsibilities are to be adhered to:

- 5.1 Students are not to use mobile and/or personal device on College grounds.
- 5.2 Head/earphones can only be used in the school as an educational device. The discretion for their use for a learning activity or task (e.g. listen to podcasts, lectures and videos for learning) rests with the teacher. When speaking to a peer or staff member, head/earphones must be removed from both ears.
- 5.3 There may be exceptional circumstances where students require a formal exemption from the policy. Exemptions include:
 - 5.3.a The mobile and/or personal device is used to help monitor or manage a diagnosed health condition.
 - 5.3.b The mobile and/or personal device is a negotiated adjustment to a learning program for a student with learning needs as determined in consultation with the Inclusive Education Team, Director of the Junior School or the Director of Teaching and Learning.
 - 5.5c Requests for exemptions from parents/caregivers, will be considered by the Principal, or their delegate, on a case-by-case basis. Approved exemptions will be documented in the student's Health Care Plan, Personal Plan for Learning (PPL), or student file.
- 5.4 If students choose to bring their mobile and/or personal device to school, they need to store it in their locked individual student locker. To minimise disruption, devices must be switched off.
- 5.5 Students who bring mobile and/or personal devices to school do so at their own risk and the College accepts no responsibility for loss, damage, or theft. Parents/caregivers are advised to contact their insurance provider prior to allowing their child to bring any mobile personal device to the College.
- 5.6 Parents/caregivers wishing to contact their child must do so through Student Services / Front Reception.
- 5.7 Students with part-time employment should advise their employers that they are not contactable in school hours.
- 5.8 Mobile and/or personal devices may only be used during school time with permission from a Year Level Coordinator or member of the College Leadership Team.
- 5.9 No mobile and/or personal device is to be brought into any exam or class assessment.
- 5.10 Students not authorised to use mobile and/or personal devices will be asked to hand over their device to their teacher and collect it at the end of the school day from their Year Level Coordinator.
- 5.11 If a student uses a mobile and/or personal device to bully, menace, harass, or offend another person, the Bullying and Harassment Policy will be enacted and parents will be informed. Additionally, given this is a criminal offence, the College may consider it appropriate to involve SAPOL in dealing with such situations.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTATION

- Student Expectations and Procedures
- Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct
- Academic Honesty Policy
- Crisis Communication Plan
- Communication Policy

7. REVISION RECORD

Document Title	Mobile Phone & Personal Devices Policy				
Document Type	Policy				
Document Date	November 2024				
Process Owner	College Principal	Helen Steele (hsteele@stdominic.sa.edu.au)			
Approval Authority	College Leadership Team				
Review Date	2024				
Distribution	Website		SEQTA		Sharepoint <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
History	Edition	Date	Description of change		
	1.0	2024	Drafted		