

Policy

At St Oliver Plunkett Catholic Primary School, we seek to develop a learning and teaching environment where we are developing digital citizens who think critically and creatively, work collaboratively, who can problem solve and communicate their learning with others.

Mobile phones and electronic devices are a part of modern society, and the school accepts that many students will possess mobile phones and electronic devices. Phones are a useful tool, especially where the issue of safety is concerned, however, teachers and students have a right to teach and to learn in a classroom environment free from interruption by mobile phones and other electronic devices.

St Oliver Plunkett Catholic Primary School understands that an increasing number of parents/guardians wish to provide their children with mobile devices for safety, security and/or emergency. This policy details the conditions under which mobile devices are permitted at St Oliver Plunkett Catholic Primary School.

For the purpose of this policy, 'communication devices' **include but are not limited to** mobile phones, smart watches, other electronic communication devices, non-school issued iPads, and other portable gaming consoles, that have the capability to communicate even though those capabilities can be disabled.

Communication devices **exclude** items that do not have the ability communicate or take images. These items include fitness trackers such as Fitbits and Junior Garmin watches.

Conditions of Use

The use of communication devices for all students is not permitted from the time they enter the school grounds to the conclusion of the school day. Communication devices should be switched off and handed in to the school office when entering the school grounds. The office will securely store these devices until collected at the end of the school day.

Exemptions and Communication

Exemptions to this ban include where a student requires a communication device:

- to monitor a health condition as part of a school approved documented health care plan
- as deemed necessary by the Principal

All exemptions must be formally approved in writing by the Principal.

While at St Oliver Plunkett Catholic Primary School, students are under the care of the school. All urgent communication between parents and students, must be via the School Office.

Breaches of this Policy

Breaches of this policy will be managed in accordance with the St Oliver Plunkett Catholic Primary School Behaviour Support Plan, and the ICLT Acceptable Use Policy and Agreement.

- Students who do not comply with this policy will have their communication device confiscated and held at the School Office. The student's parent/carer will be informed and requested to collect the communication device from the school.

Roles and Responsibilities

a. Role of the School

- Set out clear expectations about communication devices and communicate these expectations to students and parents/carers at the beginning of the school year.
- Support the secure storage of devices throughout the school day, in the School Office.

b. Role of Students

- At all times follow expectations of the Device Policy.
- When entering the school grounds, hand all communication devices into the School Office, to be stored securely throughout the school day. Collect communication devices from the School Office, before leaving the school grounds, at the end of the school day.

c. Role of Parents/Carers

- Notify the School if there are student medical needs that would require the Principal to grant exemption for the policy.
- Support the School Device Policy

Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years, or earlier at the discretion of the Principal. The next review will be in 2026.

Related documents

- i. Uniform Policy, available from the School office, or the online Parent Portal.
- ii. ICLT Agreement