

**Rationale**

Mobile phones are an integral part of our society and a common communication tool. GSC understands the role that mobile phones may play in helping students to be safe when travelling to and from the College. However, with advancement in technology they now have the potential to distract students from their learning. Of concern is the capability of many phones to be used for cyber-bullying, invading privacy, social media, internet access, video and voice recording both during class and in the yard. The immediate access mobile phones provide between students at school as well as those outside during school hours is a safety concern we at Gisborne Secondary College wish to address with this policy.

At GSC a safe learning environment, where an individual's privacy is respected and safety is maintained, is a right of all students, staff and members of our College community.

Gisborne Secondary College will clearly and regularly advise students and parents/guardians of expectations and policy requirements, including use during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.

Mobile phone cameras (still and video) must not be used:

- in banned spaces for example changing rooms, toilets, gyms and swimming pools
- to film people and their activities without their knowledge or permission.
- Mobiles phones must not be used to send harassing or threatening messages.

**Mobile Phones at school****GSC will:**

- discourage the use of mobile phones in the classroom unless they can be appropriately incorporated into the learning program
- inform students and parents that mobile phones are used at their owners' risk
- take appropriate action against any student who:
  - photographs or films other individuals without their consent or who sends harassing or threatening messages
  - is/are caught using a mobile phone in exams or assessments.

**Students should:**

- only use mobile phones when usage will not disrupt the normal school routine
- display courtesy, consideration and respect for others when using a mobile phone
- have their mobile phones switched off and out of sight during classes, unless the teacher permits their use for a teaching and learning purpose
- ensure that their phones are always stored in a safe and secure place.

**Consequences for improper use of phones at school**

A range of consequences may be imposed by student managers if phones are improperly used at school. Students who use a phone to violate another individual's privacy or to incite or encourage any act in breach of College policy may be suspended.

**Note:** Students can have access to a mobile phone where there is a need to contact parents/guardians in an emergency.

**Parent/Student contact during school hours**

Parent/guardians wishing to contact their child during school hours please call the College on 54283691 and a message will be relayed to the student. If a student wishes to contact their parent/guardian during school hours there are College phones available for use.