



Approved by School Board 26 April 2018

Policy

Use of Mobile Technology and Devices at Our Lady of Mt Carmel

Mission

Our mission is to be an inclusive and compassionate community, where children are educated in faith, life and learning. By prayer and action, we follow Christ.

Vision

As a community of faith, Our Lady of Mt Carmel School inspires students to be lifelong, independent learners so that they may take their place as purposeful people with the courage, wisdom and will to shape and enrich our world.

Values: Respect...Compassion...Service...Love...

Preamble:

The increased ownership of mobile technology and devices requires that school administrators, teachers, students and parents take steps to ensure that these items are used responsibly to promote responsible communication, personal safety and support learning.

Mobile technology and devices (e.g. tablets, laptops, phones), when used appropriately, can offer students and their parents many advantages in terms of complementing learning, ease of communication and a sense of personal safety when children are travelling to and from school. However, mobile technology and devices also have the capacity to have a negative impact on the learning environment and the safety and well-being of students.

This policy aims to establish responsible student use of mobile technology and devices within the school environment.

The use of mobile technology or devices will be deemed inappropriate if it disrupts or is likely to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school, or threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or well-being of any person.

Acceptable use of mobile technology or device:

1. It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile technology or devices onto the school premises to adhere to Our Lady of Mt Carmel's acceptable use of mobile technology and devices policy.
2. Parents have the responsibility to be aware if their child is bringing mobile technology or a device onto the school premises.
3. Unless directly related to classroom learning activities; and under the direction of teaching/administration staff; the use of any technology or device with photographic capabilities, the ability to connect to the internet or mobile network during the school day is prohibited.
4. Any personal technology or device that is deemed a distraction to learning is not to be brought to school. A device, brought to school by a student, deemed by a staff member to be a distraction to learning, or inappropriately used within the school grounds, will result in parents being notified and a mutual decision made on whether the device will be permitted to return to school. A device deemed unsuitable for school that returns to school following this notification/decision will be confiscated for collection by the child's parent from the school office.
5. Students who bring a mobile phone onto school premises must have it turned off and stored in their bag during the hours of 8:35am – 3:00pm. Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency the school office remains the appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in an appropriate way.
6. A student may only use their mobile phone on the school grounds, before and after school if the use is related to ensuring ease of communication and a sense of personal safety when children are travelling to and from school.
7. Students participating in the "Bring Your Own Device" tablet program are not permitted to use these devices on the school grounds before or after school, or during school breaks. Tablets are to remain in classrooms during the school day and should remain in school bags when students are travelling to and from school.
8. Any mobile phone or tablet deemed by a staff member to have been used inappropriately by a student at school will be confiscated for collection by the child's parent from the school office.
9. Any student using mobile technology or device to harass another person will face disciplinary actions as sanctioned by the Principal. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use mobile technology or device to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, if action as sanctioned by the Principal is deemed ineffective the school may consider it appropriate to involve the police.
10. The Principal reserves the right to withdraw permission for a student to bring mobile technology or a device to school.

Loss, damage and theft

Students and parents are reminded that students bring mobile technology or devices to school at their own risk – the school will not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to mobile technology or devices.