VISION

St. Francis Xavier College is a Catholic community that is educative and supportive. We have a clear purpose: the development of a person of competence, conscience and compassion formed in the Christian tradition; one who is guided by a sense of hope and self belief and who will be of service in the world. We recognise God’s presence in our lives by celebrating and pursuing personal excellence and by living courageously with optimism and respect for all.

1. PURPOSE:

The increased ownership of mobile phones requires that teachers, students, and parents take steps to ensure that mobile phones are used responsibly. This Student Mobile Phone Policy is designed to ensure that potential issues can be clearly identified and addressed, ensuring the benefits that mobile phones provide (such as increased safety to/from the College) can continue to be enjoyed by our students. St Francis Xavier College has established the following policy for mobile phones that provides teachers, students and parents with guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of mobile phones.

The Student Mobile Phone Policy also applies to students during College excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities unless otherwise specified.

2. RATIONALE

2.1 Personal safety and security

St Francis Xavier College accepts that parents allow their children access to mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also ever-increasing concern about children traveling alone on public transport or commuting long distances to the College. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can speak with their child before and after school hours.

2.2 Responsibility

It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile phones onto College premises to adhere to the guidelines outlined in this document. The decision to provide a mobile phone to their children should be made by parents or guardians and as such parents should be aware if their child takes a mobile phone onto College premises.

2.3 Guidelines for Use

At no time during school hours are students allowed to use a mobile phone within College grounds. Whilst on College premises, phones should be turned off and kept out of sight.

Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, Student Reception remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly, and assisted in any appropriate way.

Disciplinary action will be taken against students who do not adhere to these rules.
2.4 Theft or damage

Students are required to mark their mobile phone clearly with their name. In order to reduce the risk of theft during College hours, students who carry mobile phones are advised to keep them well concealed and not ‘advertise’ they have them. The College recommends students hand mobile phones in to Student Reception at the start of each day for safe storage. Phones may be collected at the end of the day after dismissal.

Mobile phones which are found in the College and whose owner cannot be located should be handed in to the office.

The College accepts no responsibility for replacing mobile phones that are lost, stolen or damaged whilst on College premises or on College sponsored functions.

The College accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while traveling to and from the College. It is strongly advised that students use passwords/pin numbers to prevent unauthorised use of their phone.

2.5 Inappropriate use

If a student is seen using a mobile phone on Campus,

- the phone will be confiscated and placed in an office in the Administration.
- parents will be informed.
- Student will receive an after school detention.
- Students can collect their mobile phone from the office at the end of the day.

Repeated infringements may result in the student losing the privilege of bringing a mobile phone to school. Furthermore, if a mobile phone is used in any of the following ways, the student(s) involved will face further disciplinary action:

- Cheating in exams or assessments
- The use of vulgar, derogatory, or obscene language while using a mobile phone
- Taking photos or video footage anywhere in the College
- Storing pornographic images
- Viewing photos or video footage

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person [The Crimes Legislation Amendment (Telecommunications Offences and Other Measures) Act 2004 provides for offences under the Criminal Code Act 1995]. As such, the College may consider it appropriate to involve the police. In such cases the parents/guardians will be informed as a matter of urgency. Hence, students with mobile phones must not engage in personal attacks, harass another person, or post private information about another person using SMS messages, taking/sending photos or objectionable images, and phone calls.