McAULEY CATHOLIC CENTRAL

ACCEPTABLE USE OF MOBILE PHONES POLICY
PURPOSE

McAuley has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones to provide teachers, students and parents with guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of mobile phones during school hours.

RATIONALE

1. Personal safety and security

McAuley accepts that parents give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. However, during school hours, all phone calls are to be made to / from the school office. Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and will be assisted in any appropriate way.

2. Mobile Phone Permits

Permission to have a mobile phone at school while under the school’s supervision is contingent on parent / guardian and Principal/Assistant Principal granting permission. Permission is granted in the form of a signed copy of the Mobile Phone Agreement (Appendix 1).

It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile phones to school to abide by the guidelines outlined in this document. Parents / Guardians or the Principal/Assistant Principal may revoke approval at any time where a student has failed to demonstrate a responsible attitude towards mobile phone use.

3. Acceptable Uses

Mobile phones should only be brought to school for out of school hours use. Phones must be turned off during school hours and will be confiscated if seen or heard or if there is evidence that a phone has been used.

4. Mobile Phone Rules

   i. Mobile phones must be switched off for the duration of the school day. No calls may be made or taken before or after school while a student is on the school grounds, during class time, at recess or lunch. This also applies to students waiting on bus lines, during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities. Urgent calls may be directed through the front office.

   ii. Mobile phones must not be used to send SMS messages, surf the internet, take photos or use any other application (games, clock, calculator, music) during school lessons, on bus lines and other educational activities.

   iii. Using mobile phones to bully and threaten other students is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. In some cases, it can constitute criminal behaviour and will be treated as such.

   iv. It is preferable to hand clearly labeled mobile phones to the front office for storage in a locked box. Students who choose to keep their phone must ensure that it remains out of sight.
5. **Theft or damage**

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones. It is strongly advised that students use passwords or pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones by other students, or if stolen. Students must keep their password or pin numbers confidential by not sharing phones.

6. **Inappropriate Conduct**

*Any student/s using a mobile phone to cheat in exams or assessments will face disciplinary action as outlined in the assessment policy.*

Students should not involve themselves in the following situations with mobile phones:

- a) using vulgar, derogatory or obscene language or bully/threaten other students.
- b) engaging in personal attacks, harass another person, or post private information about another person using SMS messages.
- c) taking or sending photos or objectionable images
- d) making harassing phone calls.
- e) “ganging up” on another student and using their mobile phones to denigrate or humiliate another student by sending the pictures to other students or uploading it to a website for public viewing.
- f) photographing or filming any student without their consent.
- g) taking photographs in the toilets or any situation that may cause embarrassment or discomfort to their fellow students, staff or visitors to the school.

Students who participate in this sort of activity will face disciplinary action. This will include suspension and referral to the police. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person.

7. **Sanctions**

Students who infringe the rules set out in this document will have their phones confiscated by teachers. The mobile phone is then taken to a secure place within the school and the student’s parent informed. Appropriate arrangements are then made for the parents to collect the mobile phone.

Two infringements will result in the withdrawal of the agreement to allow the student to bring the mobile telephone to school.
APPLICATION FORM FOR A MOBILE PHONE PERMIT 2008

I wish to make application for my child to bring a mobile phone to school and have discussed the following conditions with him/her:

○ Mobile phones must be switched off for the duration of the school day. No calls may be made or taken before or after school while a student is on the school grounds, during class time, at recess or lunch. This also applies to students waiting on bus lines, during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities. Urgent calls may be directed through the front office.

○ Mobile phones must not be used to send SMS messages, surf the internet, take photos or use any other application (games, clock, calculator, music) during school lessons, on bus lines and other educational activities.

○ Using mobile phones to bully and threaten other students is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. In some cases, it can constitute criminal behaviour and will be treated as such.

○ It is preferable to hand clearly labeled mobile phones to the front office for storage in a locked box. Students who choose to keep their phone must ensure that it remains out of sight.

○ The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.

Please detach and return to school. Keep the above conditions for your records and future reference

STUDENT AND PARENT AGREEMENT

I wish to apply to bring a mobile phone to school.

Reason for application: ____________________________________________

I agree to keep my mobile turned off during school hours. I will carry my permit at all times and show it upon request of a teacher. I have read and understand the above information about appropriate use of mobile phones at McAuley Catholic Central School and I understand that this form will be kept on file at the school and that the details may be used and shared with a third party, if necessary to assist:

1. To identify a phone if it is lost
2. To identify a phone if the phone is being used inappropriately

I give my child permission to carry a mobile phone to school and understand that my child will be responsible for ensuring that the mobile phone is used appropriately and correctly, while under the school’s supervision, as outlined in this document.

Parent name (print): __________________________

Parent signature: ___________________________ Date: _________________________

Student name (print): __________________________

Student signature: ___________________________ Date: _________________________

Mobile phone number: __________________________

OFFICE USE ONLY

Mobile Permit Granted: Y/N Signed________________________ Date_______________________