

Student Mobile Phones in Catholic Education Northern Territory Schools Policy Statement

Document Number:		CEO.PCWB.2101.1.1	Approved by:		Paul Greaves CENT	
Effective Date:		30.11.23	Responsibility of:		Leader PCWB	
Version Number:	1	Review due:	30.11.2025	Contact Person:	Leader PCWB	

Since 1 January 2023, student mobile phones have not been permitted to be used in Northern Territory government schools. Exemptions apply for teacher directed educational purposes or medical reasons.

Catholic Education NT is committed to enhancing the inherent dignity of all - students, staff and families to ensure the fullness of life for all. (John 10:10) We strive to ensure all students engage meaningfully in their learning, build a sense of hospitality and compassion, and create respectful relationships. While technology can provide many opportunities for communication and learning, there are growing concerns about the relationship between excessive and inappropriate usage and the impact on student learning and wellbeing.

In the spirit of Catholic Education that promotes good stewardship of resources and respectful interactions, commencing 1 January 2024 the use of student mobile phones will be restricted in Catholic Education Northern Territory schools. Mobile phones will not be permitted during learning time with exemptions to apply for teacher directed educational purposes or medical/wellbeing reasons. Local school policies will determine whether mobile phones must be off and away all day or available during non-learning times.

The aim of this policy is to:

- eliminate disruption to educational programs through the receipt and transmission of phone calls or messages
- eliminate privacy concerns related to photographs or recording conversations without the knowledge of those being recorded
- provide a safe environment to learn without inappropriate use of, or distractions from, mobile phones and smart watches, such as cyberbullying, threats of violence, or accessing inappropriate materials via the internet
- provide greater opportunities for social interaction and physical activity during school break times.

This policy applies to all CENT schools, excluding boarding facilities.

This policy does not apply to outside hours school care services run by external providers.

Signed:

Date 30/11/2023



Paul Greaves
Director of Catholic Education