



## Introductory comments and rationale

We live in an exciting and technology rich world. The benefits of the technology revolution are incalculable and, in many ways, add enormously to our lives. In the context of education this technology enables us to access extraordinary information, share work in the classroom, collaborate on global projects, create multimedia content, and engage in complex problem solving.

There is, however, a growing volume of global research that indicates a real need to limit the amount of screen time we have each day, for the sake of our physical and emotional wellbeing. Schools share that responsibility with their families.

At its heart, the change in our mobile phone/electronic device policy at Trinity is about helping our students to be safe and healthy. We believe these changes will:

- enable the boys to concentrate and engage more fully in class, away from notifications, distractions and the urge to check their phone;
- assist us to create a safer and more supportive learning environment - devices not on the school network cannot be monitored and inappropriate sites cannot be blocked;
- encourage the boys to develop stronger social skills and build deeper relationships with their peers;
- empower the boys to improve their physical and mental health by unplugging during the day

Each of the boys will continue to have access to powerful learning technology by way of the school-provided devices (laptops), and a variety of specialist equipment. As a School, we remain committed to providing valuable opportunities to integrate technology in learning, and to help equip the boys with skills to be good digital citizens and be safe online.

We acknowledge this new approach/framework will require some adjustments, and we ask for the support of all our families in its implementation.

We continue to encourage families to have open and honest conversations about their phone and technology use at home, and consider together a family policy or guidelines that everyone will follow. For example, making bedrooms a screen-free zone - having a family charging station where devices are kept/charged each night. There are lots of great resources available to help you do this.

As we implement this policy from the beginning of 2019, we will continue to consult, monitor, and evaluate our practices in light of government policy, new research, and the best interests of our boys.

## Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, a mobile device is defined as any electronic device other than the school provided laptop. This includes, but is not limited to, mobile phones, smart watches, iPads and other tablet computers, dedicated games consoles and any other internet-connected devices.

# Policy/Expectations

## During The School Day (8.15am to 3.15pm):

- All mobile devices must be turned off and locked in the student's locker.
- They may not be accessed at all during the School day;  
*At Recess and Lunchtimes students are encouraged to spend time with friends face to face, join in games or physical activities outside, participate in the various activities and clubs in different parts of the School, or if they need some quiet/down time - read a book, magazine or newspaper.*
- Students who need to use their laptop for school related work at recess or lunchtime must go to the Tudor Centre / Junior School Library. Year 12 Students may also use the Poynter Level to complete work;
- Students may not use Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, Skype and other social networking or messaging apps on their School laptops;
- Students may not play computer games on their laptop or any other device at any time, unless instructed to do so as part of a teacher directed learning activity;
- Students may not use headphones/listen to music unless instructed to do so as part of a teacher directed learning activity;
- At times teachers may require students to bring their mobile devices to class for a specific learning activity. Students must then return their phones to their lockers at the next available break.
- Students may not use a VPN or any other system that may mask their network traffic;  
*This policy also applies to School related events ie. House swimming, athletics etc.*

**Parent/Student Contact:** If parents need to make urgent contact with their sons between 8.15am and 3.15pm, they are to make contact via School reception on 9854 3600 or by email to [trinity@trinity.vic.edu.au](mailto:trinity@trinity.vic.edu.au). Alternatively, they may also make contact via their son's Head of Year. If students need to make urgent contact with parents during the day they should do so via the appropriate school reception.

# Consequences for not following Policy

## Senior School

- **First breach of policy:** Mobile device removed and taken to the Deputy Headmaster's Office. Recorded in system. Device collected at end of day.
- **Second breach of policy:** Mobile device removed and taken to the Deputy Headmaster's Office. Recorded in system. Device collected at end of day. Parents contacted.
- **Subsequent breach of policy:** Mobile device removed and taken to the Deputy Headmaster's Office. Recorded in system. Device collected at the end of day. Parents contacted. Friday detention issued.

## Junior School

- **First breach of policy:** Mobile device removed and taken to Junior School Reception. Recorded in system. Device collected at end of day. Verbal Warning.
- **Second breach of policy:** Mobile device removed and taken to Junior School Reception. Recorded in system. Device collected at end of day.
- Student visits Reflection Centre at lunchtime - Parents contacted via Reflection Centre Sheet.
- **Subsequent breach of policy:** Mobile device removed and taken to Junior School Reception. Recorded in system. Device collected at end of day. Parents contacted. After School detention issued.

*These consequences will apply to breaches of the policy in any one year.*

**Note:** Inappropriate use of the School laptop will be dealt with in accordance with existing policies, including playing of computer games during class time. TGS acknowledges the work of Camberwell Girls Grammar School in the development of this policy