VALUES:
Through Jesus’ teachings we are challenged to care for our community. At Mercy College each person’s right to privacy and safety must be respected and the integrity of the learning environment maintained.

RATIONALE:
Mercy College recognises the value of personal portable electronic technologies and encourages their responsible and appropriate use within the school environment. While there are times when it is appropriate to access such devices, the college reserves the right to regulate the use of such devices in order to maintain its integrity as a Catholic school dedicated to learning and caring for all its members.

POLICY:
The use of mobile phones and other personal portable electronic communication, recording and storage devices at Mercy College will be regulated.

CONSEQUENCES:
1. The users of such devices at Mercy College should always display courtesy, consideration and respect for self and privacy of others.

2. The college may regulate the use of these devices at any time upon the school premises, or at any school related events.

3. Regulation of the use of these devices by the college will be taken with a view to promoting responsible and appropriate use and preventing:
   - Disruption to learning or to the learning environment
   - Actions that fail to give proper respect to self and/or others including breaches of privacy, harassment and bullying, defamation, obscenity and indecency.
   - Breaches of the law, including copyright and privacy laws.
   - Taking receiving or giving an unfair advantage in assessment or competitive school activities.

4. The college may take appropriate action to screen, detect and monitor the presence and use of such devices on the school premises or during school activities.

5. Implementation procedures that are developed regarding these matters will be published and communicated to students, parents and staff in written and verbal form.

6. If a person brings such a device to a school activity, then that person is responsible for its safe-keeping.

7. The school will ensure that there is a range of consequences for breaches of the policy. Consequences for inappropriate use of
such devices could lead to legal action and potential exclusion from the school.