Philosophical Basis:

Mobile phones are important modern day communication tools, essential in providing a safe and effective school environment. However, they can easily be improperly used, lost or damaged and must therefore be effectively managed. For the purpose of this policy, ‘mobile phones’ includes all Personal Electronic Devices, (PEDs), but excludes school authorised iPods and iPads.

Guidelines:

• In general, students are discouraged from bringing mobile phones to school.
• Parents of students who bring mobile phones to school should ensure that they are adequately insured against loss or damage.
• The school will accept no responsibility for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) resulting from mobile phone use.
• As a matter of courtesy, it is expected that mobile phones belonging to parents, staff and students (if applicable) will be on silent or turned off during class time, interviews, assemblies, performances and meetings.

Implementation:

• Teachers in charge of all excursions and trips involving students must ensure the school’s mobile phones or similar appropriate communications devices accompany each trip.
• Students are not to use the school’s mobile phones without permission directly from the Teacher in Charge.
• Staff will be kept informed of Department of Education and Early Childhood Development information relating to health effects of using mobile phones.
• Students’ mobile phones must be turned off and must not be visible or used during the school day. Usage includes the sending and receiving of text messages, data or taking photos.
• Students’ mobile phones must not be brought to classes, meetings, assemblies or similar organised activities.
• Students must not take mobile phones on excursions or to camps, without prior authorisation. This applies even when the student intends to use the mobile phone only as a camera.
• Mobile phones must not cause disruptions to individuals, classes or the daily operations of the school.
• Students must not use a mobile phone to take images or record conversations of other students or staff without the written consent of the Principal or his/her delegate.
• Students who become unwell during the day must not use a mobile phone to contact their parents/guardians to collect them. Normal first aid procedures must be followed.
• Students misusing personal mobile phones at school or causing a nuisance will be brought to the attention of the Principal.
• The Principal may revoke a student’s privilege of bringing or using mobile phones whilst at school.
• Students engaged in the inappropriate use of a mobile phone by bullying or harassing others through SMS, voice or picture will receive consequences in line with the Student Code of Conduct. Serious breaches may result in the mobile phone being confiscated, in which case it must be collected from the Principal only by the parent/guardian of the student.
• Expectations in regard to mobile phone etiquette will be conveyed to members of the school community via the newsletter and staff meetings.

Evaluation:
Due to the rapid advances in electronic communication devices, this policy will be reviewed annually.