Rationale:
The mobile phone can provide an effective and quick means of communication and many students now have access to a mobile phone. Clare High School also acknowledges that mobile phones can serve to improve personal security and safety. Notwithstanding this, mobile phones must be handled in a mature and responsible fashion and NOT interfere with or hinder personal wellbeing or the education process.

Clare High School also believes that the responsible use of a mobile phone extends beyond the school environment and is applicable at all times within the general community. Having said this, mobile phones can present a serious risk to student safety, wellbeing and learning. These risks are clearly defined under DECS Legislative Framework that includes Child Protection Curriculum Strategy, OHSW – Psychological Health and the Duty of Care responsibilities of education staff outlined in the Educational Act. The use of mobile phone poses a threat to student safety, wellbeing when it is used to:

- Text or phone a person that disrupts their learning or that of others
- Bully or harass another student
- Incite other people to take inappropriate action against another person or group
- Take unauthorised photographs or video footage that breaches Privacy Act laws
- Access confidential, private or illegal material and distribute it to others
- Gain an unfair advantage in learning (e.g. used to access information during a test or examination)

Policy Aims:
1. Safeguard and promote the wellbeing and learning of all school members
2. Teach responsible and mature mobile phone use
3. Discourage and eliminate the use of mobile phones in the school environment

General Implementation:
1. No student (Year 7-12 inclusive) is permitted to use or personally carry a mobile phone at any time during the normal school day (8.45am to 3.25pm).
2. Parents/Caregivers who need to contact their son/daughter during the school day are expected to do so by contacting the school on its landline number – 88422788. Conversely, students are able to seek staff permission to use school phones that are based in most offices to contact parents if an urgent need arises.
3. If a student requires the use of a mobile phone before or after school, it must be kept secure either in their bag, locker or at student services during the school day.
4. If the possession and use of a mobile phone is required for a specific safety issue or matter of urgency by any student, then this request must be made by a parent or caregiver to the Principal, Assistant Principal or an approved delegate. The school reserves the right to reject such a request.
5. Whilst participating in a day excursion, school camp or an official out of hour’s school event, mobile phones may only be used with the written prior permission of the teacher in charge of the activity.
6. The camera function on a mobile phone must not be used by any person or at any time as the inappropriate or unsanctioned use of a camera may breach the Privacy Act laws.
7. Students who bring mobile phones to school do so at their own risk. The security of all personal property is the responsibility of the owner. The school accepts no liability in the event of loss, theft or damage to personal property.
8. Staff have a responsibility to model responsible mobile phone use whilst carrying out their duties

Consequences for Policy Breaches:
1. First Offence: The mobile phone is confiscated for the remainder of the day
2. Second Offence: As above, including lunchtime detention and parent contact
3. Third and Subsequent Offence: Enactment of the school Student Behaviour Management Procedures

Other References:
- CHS - Student Behaviour Management Policy
- DECS - Cyber bullying, e-crime and the protection of children (Advice Guidelines for parents and caregivers)
- UniSA – Switched on about cyber bullies (Article, Dr Barbara Spears, May 2007)

Evaluation:
This policy will be implemented from the commencement of term two, 2008. It will be monitored and reviewed throughout 2008 for general implementation from 2009. This policy was last ratified by the school’s Governing Council on: 18th March 2008