

Student Mobile Phone Policy

1. Introduction

The Department of Education's Student Mobile Phones in Public Schools policy bans students from using mobile phones from the time they enter school grounds to the conclusion of the school day.

This includes smart watches and listening accessories, such as headphones and earbuds.

Research shows that the mere presence of mobile phone (e.g., on the student's desk) is a distraction.

The policy supports staff and students to:

- reduce the potential for learning distraction.
- protect the privacy of staff and students.
- improve health and wellbeing.
- reduce the chance of students bringing external issues to school through technology.

The management of mobile phones in the classroom setting is primarily considered to be a classroom management issue and failure to comply with the college policy is regarded in the same way as any other breach of classroom behaviour standards. Refer to the college's behaviour management policy

3. BSC Policy

This policy refers to the use of mobile phones, laptop computers and other electronic devices such as portable game consoles and DVD players on the college site.

For the purposes of this policy, 'mobile phones' includes smart watches, other electronic communication devices, and associated listening accessories, such as, but not limited to, headphones and ear buds.

This policy seeks to place reasonable restrictions on the use of these items in a school setting as follows:

- 2.1 Mobile phones must be switched off or on flight mode and out of sight whilst on college grounds, this includes recess and lunchtime breaks, unless the student has been granted an exemption to monitor a health condition as part of a school approved documented health care plan.
- 2.2 Under **NO** circumstances are students permitted to photograph or film other individuals without their consent; download and/or display inappropriate material including pornographic images; send harassing or threatening text messages (SMS) or multimedia messaging (MMS) messages or use a mobile phone to cheat during assessment. Such behaviour is considered to be a **serious breach of school discipline** and a suspension imposed as per the College Behaviour Management policy.
- 2.3 Under **NO** circumstances may students use their mobile phone to contact home and make arrangements to leave the college. Any student who is feeling unwell, must report to Student Services in the first instance with teacher permission or during break times.
Students must always exit the college through the front office.
- 2.4 Where parent/guardians need to contact their children urgently during the college day they contact the college on (08) 9523 3600.
- 2.5 If a mobile phone is brought to the College, students need to ensure that it is always stored safely in their bag.
- 2.6 The College accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are brought to school and undertakes no responsibility to investigate their damage, misplacement, loss, or theft.

4. Headphones

- 3.1 The college supplies headphones for specific activities when and where required, therefore personal headphones are banned.

5. Charging Mobile Phones

We understand that sometimes students need to have access to charging stations. These are available in Student Services. Teachers will not facilitate phone charging in their classrooms.

6. Emergency Situations

- 6.1 In the event of an emergency students are not to use their mobile phones to photograph or record events, send text messages, or make phone calls without the prior consent of a teacher.
- 6.2 Any student who uses their mobile phone to photograph or record events, send text messages, or make phone calls without the prior consent of a teacher during an emergency situation will be deemed to have committed a serious breach of college discipline.

7. College Wireless Network

- 7.1 Students are **not permitted** to connect to the college's wireless network using their mobile phone or other electronic device.

8. Establishing Classroom Expectations

- 8.1 Establishing clear classroom expectations regarding mobile phones is essential to create a conducive learning environment.
- 8.2 To set these expectations:
 - **Communicate Expectations:** Clearly communicate the *Off and Away All Day* mobile phone policy to students. Be explicit about expectations and the consequences for non-compliance.
 - **Explain the Why:** Help students understand the reasons behind your policy. Explain how mobile phone use can distract them and others, hinder learning, and disrupt the class. Encourage them to be present and engaged in the learning process.
 - **Involve Students in Creating the Classroom Social Contract:** Involve students in developing the classroom expectations gives them a sense of ownership and responsibility in following the rules they helped create.
 - **Model Behavior:** Lead by example. Avoid using your mobile phone during class time unless it's directly related to the lesson. Students are more likely to respect the policy if they see you adhering to it as well.
 - **Use Positive Reinforcement:** Acknowledge and praise students who consistently follow the mobile phone policy. Positive reinforcement can be a powerful motivator for good behavior.
 - **Consistent Enforcement:** Be consistent in enforcing the policy. Address mobile phone misuse promptly and apply the agreed-upon consequences consistently. This consistency helps students understand the seriousness of the expectations.

Remember that the goal is to create a positive and focused learning environment where students can thrive academically. By setting clear expectations and explaining the rationale behind them, you can help students understand the purpose of the *Off and Away All Day* mobile phone policy.

9. Expectations

9.1 In the classroom

1. If the class teacher sees your mobile phone or earbuds, you will be asked to hand it over immediately.
2. The items will be placed into a container or drawer for the rest of the lesson.
3. You can collect the item from the class teacher at the end of the lesson.
4. If you fail to comply with this request, the matter will be reported to the Curriculum Team Leader.
5. Your phone will be confiscated and put into an envelope with your name on it, sealed and then taken to the Front Office.
6. You can collect the item from the Front Office at the end of the day.
7. If you fail to comply with this request, the Curriculum Team Leader may elect to impose a suspension, resulting in loss of good standing.
8. Your parents will be contacted, and you will thereafter be required to hand your phone in at the Front Office each morning.

9.2 In the yard

1. If a teacher sees your mobile phone or earbuds, you will be asked to hand it over immediately.
2. The items will be held onto by the teacher for the remainder of the break.
3. You can collect the item from the same teacher at the end of the break.
4. If you fail to comply with this request, the matter will be reported to the Student Services Manager for follow up.
5. Your phone will be confiscated and put into an envelope with your name on it, sealed and then taken to the Front Office.
6. You can collect the item from the Front Office at the end of the day.
7. If you fail to comply with this request, the Student Services Manager may elect to impose a suspension, resulting in loss of good standing.
8. Your parents will be contacted and will be required to hand your phone in at the Front Office each morning.

10. Dealing with Non-compliance

Teachers need to match the student's behaviour with the most appropriate response to de-escalate the situation, keeping the locus of control within the classroom and the student back on-task.

11. Confiscation

- 11.1 Curriculum Team Leaders, Student Services Managers and Deputy Principals have the right to confiscate items under the following circumstances:
 - When a mobile phone is not handed over upon requests.
 - Where headphones/ear pods are not put away from view after multiple requests.
 - Where a Portable Electronic Device such as a Portable Game Console or DVD Player is seen at any stage on the school site.
- 11.2 When an item is confiscated it will be placed in a dedicated envelope and handed to the front office receptionist as soon as possible, where it will be logged and stored securely. A student must not be allowed to deliver any confiscated items.
- 11.3 The person who confiscates the item must notify the parent/caregiver as soon as possible on the day of confiscation.
- 11.4 The name of the student will be recorded by the front office receptionist on a spreadsheet to track

breaches of this policy.

- 11.5 The student can pick up the item from the Front Office Receptionist at the end of the day.
- 11.6 If the student refuses to hand the item over to the Curriculum Team Leader or Student Services Manager the matter is to be referred to the relevant Deputy Principal (based on cohort). A suspension will be imposed (except in extenuating circumstances and after negotiation with the Deputy Principal).
- 11.8 If a student is found to have recorded, photographed, or filmed other individuals without their consent; downloaded and/or displayed inappropriate material including pornographic images; sent harassing or threatening text messages (SMS) or multimedia messaging (MMS) messages or used a mobile phone to cheat during assessments the **phone will be immediately confiscated**, and the matter referred to the Deputy Principal through the Curriculum Team Leader.
- 11.9 Students who send threatening, inappropriate, and/or harmful messages to other students during the day school or off-site where there is a reasonable nexus between the incident and the school will be dealt with within the parameters of the college's behaviour management policy.

Continued breaches of these guidelines will most likely result in a student being suspended from college.