

STUDENT MOBILE PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

RATIONALE:

The use of mobile phones, pagers, iPods, MP3 players and similar electronic devices in class can be disruptive to the school environment and to the wellbeing of students. These devices can also be valuable additions to learning, when used appropriately. It is also acknowledged that there are times when it is genuinely appropriate and beneficial for students to have access to a mobile phone before and after school; for example, the need to contact parents or guardians in emergencies.

DEFINITION:

Mobile phones and electronic devices: including pagers, iPods, MP3 players, tablets and similar devices.

Aims

- To encourage appropriate and mature use of electronic devices in daily life.
- To reduce the risk of cyber-bullying, sexting, cyber harassment, discrimination etc
- To ensure that teaching and learning is not interrupted by the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices.
- To ensure that valuable mobile phones and other electronic devices are not lost, stolen or damaged at school. Neither the College nor the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) provide insurance cover for mobile phones and personal belongings lost or damaged at school.

Guidelines for Implementation

- **Neither the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development nor Wallan Secondary College has insurance to cover private goods if lost, stolen or damaged, and cannot reimburse staff or students in this instance.**
- **Wallan Secondary College accepts no liability in the event of the loss, theft or damage of any such device.**
- Students are discouraged from bringing mobile phones to school; however these may be necessary in the event that they are required for contacting parents before and/or after school. Students are advised to leave their mobile phone at Student Services for safekeeping as they arrive at school. The phone may be collected at the end of the school day. Students must only use their mobile phones before or after school.
- Parents and caregivers wishing to leave messages for their children should do so by telephoning the College on 5783 0300. Staff will endeavour to pass messages on.
- Student Service staff will assist students who need to contact family or other persons.
- Electronic devices are **not** to be used in the classroom unless with the express permission of the subject teacher and the principal, for educational purposes only.
- Students who misuse electronic devices/mobile phones, or use them in class time/ during the school day without permission from the supervising teacher, will have the device confiscated until parent pick up from Student Services.
- Student Services pick up: Devices which are confiscated will be placed in a safe box in the General Office. Teachers can, in no way, be held responsible for the devices while in transit to the safe box.

- The policy also applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities, unless expressly permitted by the supervising teacher.

At all times:

- In-phone cameras are **not** to be used anywhere a normal camera would be considered inappropriate. Legislation applies.
- Appropriate action will be taken against any student who captures, stores or transmits Audio files, photographs or videos of individuals without their consent or who sends harassing or threatening messages. Legislation applies - please refer to the Criminal Act Code of 1995.
- Mobile phones or electronic devices will be **NOT** being permitted in college exams per VCAA Electronic Devices Procedures.

Evaluation

- Feedback to Council

We would appreciate parent support in working with us to achieve the aims outlined above.

Date of next review: June 2020

This policy was ratified by the Wallan Secondary College Council on...

25/07/17

Wallan Secondary College is committed to the protection and wellbeing of all students whilst participating in school activities both during and outside school hours. Staff have responsibility for building and maintaining a child safe environment. This responsibility extends to the identification and timely response to all concerns with regard the safety of any student of our College.
