



Mirboo North Secondary College

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

RATIONALE

Mobile phones are an effective and quick means of communication. Where unforeseen events occur, mobile phones provide students and their families with a ready means of communication. There is a need, however, to set clear guidelines to avoid unnecessary interference with teaching and learning.

In normal circumstances, parents or caregivers needing to leave messages for their children should do so by telephoning the College. Staff will endeavour to ensure that messages are passed on during class breaks. Office staff are also available to assist students who need to contact family/other persons in an emergency.

DISCLAIMER

1. Mobile phones are brought to school at the owners' risk.
2. The Department of Education And Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will not pay for any loss or damage to such property. Staff and students are discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

GUIDELINES FOR USE

1. There are times when it is genuinely appropriate and beneficial for students to have access to a mobile phone.; For example, need to contact parents or guardians in emergencies.
2. Students can only use their mobile phones before or after school
3. During school hours (**8.45 – 3.11**), mobile phones will be placed in a locked locker and remain turned off.
4. It is important that students display courtesy, consideration and respect for others whenever they are using a mobile phone.
5. In-phone cameras are not to be used anywhere a normal camera would be considered inappropriate, such as in change rooms or toilets.
6. Under no circumstances are students to use mobile phones or the internet to bully, harass or embarrass other students or to transmit and store obscene or offensive material (in or out of school)
7. Significant disciplinary action will be taken against any students who photograph or film individuals without their consent, or who sends/displays inappropriate or threatening phone messages or photos/video clips during school times or on school buses.
8. Internet broadcasting of unauthorised photos or video footage taken with a mobile phone camera is illegal and could lead to criminal proceedings. It will be treated as a serious breach of school rules.
9. Disciplinary action will be taken against any student who is caught using a mobile phone to cheat in exams or assessments.
10. This policy applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities unless advised otherwise.



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PROCEDURES FOR INAPPROPRIATE USE

1. If any students are found acting in breach of these guidelines, a staff member will take possession of the mobile phone, turn it off and give it to the Assistant Principal.
2. On the first offence the mobile phone will be returned with a warning outlining that the next time parent will need to collect the phone.
3. On the second offence the Assistant Principal will indicate to parents or care givers that they will be required to contact the school and negotiate an arrangement for collection of the mobile phone and discuss that the child follows the policy in the future.
4. The school will determine any sanctions that will apply for more serious breaches of the guidelines. This may include withdrawing the privilege of a student having a phone at the College at all, and/or other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate which may include suspension.
5. We would request parents discuss with their children the need to follow the school council endorsed mobile phone policy and ways in which they can ensure that breaches of the policy do not occur in the future.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on 10/8/2018 and is scheduled for review on 10/08/2020