

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Western Port Secondary College accepts that parents give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also ever-increasing concern about children travelling alone on public transport or commuting long distances to the college. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can speak with their child. However, access to mobile phones in a school environment requires clear guidelines to minimise opportunities and occurrences of inappropriate use.

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Western Port Secondary College's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Western Port Secondary College
2. Students' personal mobile phones brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

DEFINITIONS

A mobile phone is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

At Western Port Secondary College:

We understand that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school. Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours

- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see below for further information)
- When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office.

Personal mobile phone use

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Western Port Secondary College during school hours, including lunchtime and recess, unless an exception has been granted.

Where a student has been granted an exception, the student must use their mobile phone for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.

Secure storage

Mobile phones owned by students at Western Port Secondary College are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Students are encouraged not to bring a mobile phone to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that



Western Port Secondary College does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage. Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Western Port Secondary College will provide secure storage in the form of an individual school locker with a heavy duty padlock. Each student will be provided with a unique key to match their lock and the school will have a master key in the event this is required in the event of an emergency.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Western Port Secondary College will have their mobile phone confiscated for the day. **Collection will be required from the general office at the end of the day.** Refusal or multiple offences may also result in suspension and removal of ICT access.

At Western Port Secondary College inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted:

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy:

- may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically,
 - Learning-related exceptions
 - Health and wellbeing-related exceptions; and
 - Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite.
- can be granted by the principal, or by the teacher for that class, in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#).

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#) are:

1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)	Unit of work
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	Individual Education Plan

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan
Students who are Young Carers	Centrally recorded information (CASES21)

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Compass Event documentation
Students on excursions and camps	Compass Event documentation and/or Risk assessment planning documentation
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	Compass Event documentation and/or Risk assessment planning documentation
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel	Individual Education Plan

Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted.

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Western Port Secondary College will provide students and their parents and carers with information about items that can or cannot be brought to camps, excursions, special activities and events, including personal mobile phones.]

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Student Code of Conduct
- Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items Department Policy](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on 6th December 2019 and is scheduled for review in Semester 1 2020