



Introduction

Digital Technology is evolving at a rapid and intractable rate and while it has some educational advantages in teaching and learning, the impact of mobile devices has raised concerns within the school community. In 2019 Wanniassa School has conducted a review of mobile phone use amongst its students, staff and parent community through a range of research methods. From this, key findings and recommendations have been made, which have then formed the Wanniassa School Mobile Phone policy.

Rationale

Staff, students and parents of the Wanniassa community voiced concerns over mobile phone usage at school; including accessing inappropriate content or negative peer interactions.

Teachers have found that mobile phones in the classroom detract from learning, often being a major source of distraction for students. As all students now bring a device (Chromebook) to school, we no longer believe it is necessary for students to use a mobile phone in the classroom. There are Chromebooks students can borrow if they have an issue with their device and need a temporary replacement.

Our policy aligns with health and safety considerations, and appropriate legislation which protects the rights of students to participate in education safely, actively and equally.

Appropriate use of Mobile Phones

- Phones are not to be used during class time. Phones should not be visible or audible during class time.
 - Senior Campus students: All phones must be in bags and on silent.
 - Junior Campus students: All phones must be left at the front office during the school day.
- Senior Campus only: Students can use their mobile phones appropriately before school and during break times.
- Mobile phones are not to be used (or visible) inside toilet blocks or change rooms.
- Contact with parents and carers in case of illness or an emergency is to be made through the Front Office staff, as they can ensure the student is reached quickly and that appropriate procedures are followed.
- Other communications such as pick-up arrangements can also be made through the front office or directly to Senior Campus students during break times (11- 11:30am and 1:30-2pm). Please be aware that Senior Campus students will not be able to respond to text messages until break times.
- Students are not to take photos, video or audio of anyone during the school day without express permission from a teacher and the person whose image is captured.
- The school does not accept liability in the event of loss, theft or damage of a phone.

Procedures if a phone is used inappropriately

- Classroom teacher will prompt or remind student to put the phone in their bag.
- If the student has the phone out a second time, the teacher will request the phone is placed on the teacher's desk for the remainder of the lesson.
- If student refuses to follow the teacher's instructions the behaviour will be dealt with as non-compliance and may result in:
 - A detention
 - Parent/carer meetings
 - A behaviour contract completed with an executive teacher
 - More serious consequences, up to and including suspension
- Repeated infringements will require the student and parents/carers to meet with a member of the school leadership team to determine a suitable management plan including leaving the phone at home or at the Front Office during school hours.

Exceptions

- Students with a documented medical condition which requires the use of a mobile phone to track the student's health.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Principal is responsible for the development of this procedure and to ensure positive reinforcement of the procedure occurs through regular reminders, for example via the school's Facebook page, newsletters, information nights and other communication channels.

Any concerns about the application of this procedure or the procedure itself, should be raised with:

- the school in the first instance;
- the Directorate's Liaison Unit on (02) 6205 5429;
- online at http://www.education.act.gov.au/contact_us;

Date of Publishing: February 2020

Date for Review: February 2024

Related documents

[Acceptable use of ICT- Parents and Students Policy](#)

[ICT Management in Schools Policy](#)

[Use of Personal Electronic Devices Policy](#)

Related Legislation

[Discrimination Act 1991](#)

[Human Rights Act 2004](#)

[Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#)