

# Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy

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## 1.0 Policy

The Department of Education does not permit student use of mobile phones in public schools unless for medical or teacher directed educational purpose.

## 1.1 Rationale

Mobile phones and Electronic Devices (eg iPods, iPads computers and cameras) are an integral part of 21st century life, however it is important that we use them in a manner that supports students' academic, social and emotional wellbeing. This policy is about increasing student engagement and welfare while they are at our college. We want to reduce the pressure and anxiety students sometimes feel associated with always needing to respond. Students need the freedom to think, learn and develop positive social skills. In addition, the unregulated use of devices by students diminishes the quality of teaching and learning in the classroom.

## 2.0 Bringing Mobile Phones to the College

- Students are permitted to carry a mobile phone for safety, security or emergency purposes when in transit to and from the college.

## 2.1 Off and Away All Day

- Mobile phones, associated listening accessories such as ear/head phones, and other digital devices, are to be turned off and put away when students enter college grounds and to remain away all day, including before the start of school and at break times.
- Switching to silent is not sufficient, as text messages and alerts are known to cause anxiety and are as disruptive as a phone call.
- Smart watches are to be on 'aeroplane mode' so phone calls and messages cannot be sent or received during the school day.

## 2.2 Listening Accessories

- Listening accessories such as earphones and headphones are not to be visible or used during school hours unless with explicit teacher permission for curriculum purposes.
- Any request to use earphones and headphones for the purpose of self-regulation must be made through Student Services and accompanied with a medical certificate.

## 2.3 Exemptions

Students can be granted an exemption from 2.1 for the following uses:

- to monitor a health condition as part of a college approved documented health care plan; or
- for a particular educational purpose under the direct instruction of a teacher; or
- with permission of a teacher for a specified purpose.

## 3.0 Lost or Stolen Devices

- Mobile phones and other digital devices are brought to the college at the owner's own risk. No liability will be accepted by the college in the event of loss, theft or damage of a device.

## 4.0 Parents/carers Contacting Children

- There will be no need for a student to use a mobile phone to contact home during the college day.
- For all contact required between students and or a family member, the Student Support Officer (located in Student Services) along with Front Office staff, will be available to facilitate all urgent communication.

## 5.0 Inappropriate Use of Mobiles

- Students who use a mobile phone (still and video) to film people and their activities without their knowledge and/or permission (including recording, distributing or uploading inappropriate images, videos) will be suspended immediately. Department of Education policy states that the suspension can be up to 10 days.

## 6.0 Breach in Policy

In any instance where a student has a digital device visible upon entering, or while on college grounds, the following procedures will be followed (refer 9.0 Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Flowchart)

### First Occasion

- If the breach is in the classroom, the student will hand in their device to the teacher/staff member for the remainder of the period.
- If during break times, the student will hand the device to the staff member who will hand the device to Student Services for the remainder of the day.
- The student can collect the device from Student Services at the end of the day.
- Breach to be logged and Student Services to be notified, via SEQTA, as soon as possible.

### Second Occasion

- If the breach is in the classroom, the student will hand their device to the teacher/staff member, who will pass it onto Student Services.
- If during break times, the student will hand the device to the staff member, the staff member will hand the device to Student Services (or to an Associate Principal, where applicable)
- Loss of Good Standing will be issued and parent/carer notified.
- Parent/carer to collect the device at an arranged time.
- Breach to be logged and Student Services to be notified, via SEQTA, as soon as possible.

## 6.1 Non Compliance

In the event that a student does not follow instructions when asked to hand over the device (as indicated in 9.0 Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Flowchart) the college will resolve the matter under the Behaviour Management Policy as, "failure to follow teacher instructions".

## 7.0 Related Documents

Category	Document Title
Related Department Polices	Student Behaviour in Public Schools Policy and Procedures
	Student Mobile Phones in Public Schools Policy

## 8.0 History of Changes

Effective	Last Updated	Policy Version	Notes
31/10/19		1	

# Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Flowchart

