



Mark Oliphant  
College

# Primary student use of mobile phones and personal devices 2021

## Purpose

This policy provides direction to students, staff and families about managing mobile phones and other digital devices that students choose to bring to school. Digital devices include, but are not limited to, smartwatches, tablets or laptops that are not part of a separate Bring Your Own Device arrangement. This policy applies while students are at school, or attending an authorised school activity such as an excursion, during school hours.

## Mobile phone use for primary school students

The department's position is that primary aged students cannot use their mobile phones and personal devices at school during school hours. The department and the school recognise that there are legitimate reasons for students to bring a mobile phone or personal device to school. This may include:

- to ensure their safety while travelling
- medical purposes as documented in their health care plan
- so that parents can contact them outside of school hours

During the school day students are not permitted to access or use their mobile phones or other personal devices. Students must switch off or mute their devices before storing them at the beginning of the school day. They will not be able to access their device until the end of the school day.

## Storage of personal devices

For students who bring a personal device to school they will be stored securely by the classroom teacher during school hours. The department does not provide insurance for accidental loss or damage to personal items including mobile phones and personal digital devices brought to schools by students.

## If the student does not comply

The misuse of a personal devices may result in disciplinary action which includes but is not limited to;

- a request by the teacher to store the device
- leadership to be contacted to take the device to the front office
- the device will be securely stored and student may collect the device at the end of the day
- if the student refuses to release device, the parent will phoned and the parent will need to collect the device at the end of the school day

- where there is repeat misuse or refusal to follow reasonable instruction to hand in a device, the Behaviour Education process will be followed

## Roles and responsibilities

### Principal

Make sure:

- this policy is clearly communicated and accessible to all students, staff, and families
- there is a process for regular review of the policy
- secure storage is provided for student personal devices that are handed in to school staff and individual lockers or locks that the school provides for students to store their belongings are appropriately secure.
- processes are in place for monitoring internet and school network use by all members of the school community.

Enforce the policy and responses to instances of non-compliance.

Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.

Consider requests for exemptions from the policy from parents on a case-by-case basis. Make sure that approved exemptions are documented and that relevant staff are informed about students' exemptions.

Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.

### School staff

Deliver learning opportunities and maintain a safe and productive learning environment. Take steps to minimise distractions from the non-educational use of personal devices in the learning environment at times when a device is being used by a student in line with an approved exemption or in circumstances where students' devices are stored in the classroom.

Respond to instances of non-compliance in line with the school's policy.

Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.

Make sure that any student personal devices handed in for their care are stored in a secure location and are returned to the student (or their parent).

Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.

### Students

Comply with the requirements of the school's policy and follow all reasonable directions from the Principal and school staff.

If permitted to use a mobile phone or personal device in line with an exemption under this policy, do so in a safe, responsible and respectful way and support peers to do the same.

Communicate respectfully with others and do not use a mobile phone or other personal device to bully, harass or threaten another person.

Respect others' rights to privacy and do not take photos, film or audio records of other people without their knowledge or permission.

### **Parents**

Support the implementation of the school's policy, including the consequences for non-compliance with the policy.

Use the school's formal communication channels in all instances to communicate with the school (including where a student requires early collection from school). Encourage their child to always report to a school staff member in the first instance if they become unwell or experience an issue at school.

Recognise the important role they play in supporting their child to use their mobile phone (or other personal device) in a safe, responsible and respectful way.

## **Communication and review**

Consultation has occurred with

- students through meeting with SRC to discuss and seek feedback on the policy
- the broader community by invitation for feedback published on our MOC Facebook page and with consultation with parent members of Governing Council

The Mobile Phone Policy is accessible via the school website.

The policy will be reviewed in Term 2 2022, then every 3 years after with similar levels of consultation.

## **Supporting information**

Please find links to other policies and procedures that relate to students use of mobile phones and personal devices at Mark Oliphant College.

- school behaviour code, behaviour support policy
- school anti-bullying policy
- ICT user agreements.