

Mobile Devices Policy

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department of Education and Mount Eliza Secondary College's policy requirements, and expectations regarding the safe and appropriate use of personal mobile devices by students, at school or during school activities. This policy endeavours to promote positive behaviours in relation to the use of mobile devices.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Mount Eliza Secondary College and,
2. All personal mobile devices that have not been approved by Mount Eliza Secondary College's and/or classroom teacher for the purpose of carrying out and engaging in the teaching and learning of the curriculum.

DEFINITIONS

Personal mobile devices are portable computing and communication devices such as smartphones and smart watches (when connected to the internet or smart phone)

POLICY

Mount Eliza Secondary College's understands that students may bring a personal mobile device to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school or to extra-curricular activities.

- During school hours, personal mobile devices must be switched off, and locked securely in the student's locker.
- Exceptions to this policy may be granted by the Principal if certain conditions are met.
- When emergencies occur, parents or career's should reach their child by calling the school's office.

Personal mobile device use

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Mount Eliza 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.

Students who use their personal mobile device inappropriately at school may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and/or *Bullying* policies.

When in breach of the Mobile Devices Policy, on the first and second offence a students' personal mobile devices may be confiscated and stored securely at the General Office. In these circumstances, the mobile device will usually be returned to the student's parent/carer or to the student at the end of the school day. The school will inform the parent/guardian the phone has been confiscated. If a third offence occurred, the parent/guardian will be requested to collect the phone from the General Office.

Exemptions

There may be personal circumstances in which an individual student may apply to the Principal for an exemption from this policy on the basis of safety and/or wellbeing requirements particular to that student. Students on camps and excursions will be allowed to carry and access mobile phones when permission is given by the supervising teacher. When on school camps and/or excursions, the supervising teacher may confiscate the device if deemed necessary.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to:

- Out-of-school-hours events (not including camps and excursions)
- Travelling to and from school
- iPads and personal computers used during class time and supervised programs
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience
- Students who are undertaking VET

Insurance

Students are responsible for their personal mobile device. Please note that Mount Eliza 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, including personal mobile devices that may be brought to school. Students are responsible for items brought to school.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide: [Students Using Mobile Phones](#)
- [School Policy and Advisory Guide: Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)
- MESC Wellbeing Policy

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was endorsed/approved by the Mount Eliza Secondary College Council on ___/___/2019 for review if legislative or other changes require in the interim or no later than December 2023.

Principal Signature

School Council President Signature