

Elliston Area School



Secondary student use of: Mobile Phones and Personal Devices

Purpose

This policy provides direction to students, staff and families about managing personal 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 secondary school students

Our school recognises 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
- To allow parents to contact them outside of school hours.
- To be used as music devices during quiet study times under direct teacher supervision and at the individual teacher's discretion. The phone must be switched to Flight/Airplane Mode to ensure there is no distraction from an unsecure internet or incoming communication. Music is not to be listened to at recess and lunch times.
- To be able to use it as a learning tool under the strict supervision of their teacher.

Storage of personal devices

In all other circumstances 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 in their bag at the beginning of the school day.

If the student does not comply

Should students breach the policy, they will be instructed to lodge the mobile at the front office for the rest of the day or with the teacher at the time of the incident.

In the event mobile phones are used inappropriately and there are issues around cyber bullying and harassment, student's phones will be removed and parents/caregivers contacted about these issues.

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 of devices are in the students personal bags.
 - processes are in place for monitoring internet and school network use by all members of the school community.
- Enforce the school's 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 school policy from parents, adult or independent students 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.
- 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 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 devices 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/Carers

- 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.

If you require your child to have a mobile phone at school:

- Advise the teacher that the child has a mobile phone.
- Instruct them to keep the mobile phone safe and turned off during lesson times.
- Instruct the student to keep the mobile phone out of sight in their bag.
- Mobile phones may be checked at the beginning and conclusion of a school day.

Parents/Carers need to be aware that individual students remain responsible for their mobile phone use, loss or damage.

Communication and review

- Consultation has been undertaken with students and the broader school community to develop this policy, and consultation will occur when it is time to review the school's policy at the beginning of each year.
- This policy is communicated with families in the enrolment pack at the beginning of the year and the policy can also be accessed on the school website.

I,..... (parent or caregiver) acknowledge the Elliston Area School Secondary student use of:
Mobile Phones and Personal Devices

..... (student's name) accepts the conditions of this policy.

.....(signed by parent or caregiver)

.....(signed by student)

Date/...../202....