Policy on mobile phones

Mount Waverley Secondary College

Rationale

The increased ownership of mobile phones requires that this school and parents take steps to ensure that mobile phones are used responsibly. This policy is designed to ensure that potential issues can be clearly identified and addressed, ensuring the benefits that mobile phones provide (such as increased safety) can continue to be enjoyed by our students.

Mount Waverley Secondary College accepts that parents give or allow their children to have mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also ever-increasing concern about children travelling alone on public transport or commuting long distances to school. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can speak with their child quickly at any time.

This policy for mobile phones also applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile phones onto school premises to adhere to the guidelines outlined in this document.

With regards to mobile phones, this is a “not seen, not heard” policy.

- Mobile phones must be switched off at all times within the school grounds.
- Unless express permission is granted to the contrary, mobile phones must not be used to make calls, send SMS messages, surf the internet, take photos, video or any other application
- Mobile phones are not permitted into rooms where an assessment or examination is taking place, under any circumstances
- Exceptions may be permitted in exceptional circumstances, should the parent/guardian specifically request it. Such requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis, and should be directed to the relevant sub-school Manager.
- Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school General Office at each site remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly, and assisted in any appropriate way
- Students are required to mark their mobile phone clearly with their names
- In order to reduce the risk of theft during school hours, students who carry mobile phones are advised to keep them well concealed and secure and not ‘advertise’ they have them.
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones belonging to students who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school. The Department of Education and Training does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property. Students should think very carefully before bringing valuable items such as mobile phones to school.
- It is strongly advised that students use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones (eg by other students, or if stolen). Students must keep their password/pin numbers confidential
- Breaches of this policy will result in disciplinary action which may include confiscation of the mobile phone, and for more serious breaches, suspension from school.