



WANGARATTA
HIGH SCHOOL

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Student Mobile Phone Policy

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Author	Student Wellbeing & Engagement
Approved By	Wangaratta High School Council
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Date Reviewed	
Responsible for Review	Student Wellbeing & Engagement
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AIM

The Purpose of this policy is to ensure clarity and consistency for appropriate use of mobile phones for students whilst at School.

RATIONALE

Wangaratta High School recognises that most young people possess a mobile/smart phone. Mobile/smart phones are electronic devices that are frequently used as learning tools and for safety; many parents expect their children to carry a mobile/smart phone. We support the appropriate use of mobile/smart phones as learning devices, and expect that students will use them within our policy and guidelines. The school takes no responsibility for the loss, damage or theft of a mobile/smart phone that has been brought to school.

DET Guidelines from the School Programs Advisory Guide (SPAG):

Schools that allow the use of mobile/smart phones must clearly and regularly advise students and parents/guardians of their expectations and policy requirements, including use during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.

Schools can:

- develop policies about what students can and cannot bring to school; and
- ban anything illegal, dangerous or likely to cause disruption or harm to the smooth running of the school.

IMPLEMENTATION

Responsible and acceptable use of a mobile/smart phone

- It is preferred that mobile phones be secured in a students' locker.
- During class or school program time, if a mobile/smart phone is taken to class, it will be switched off and placed in a tub on the teacher desk so that they are visible and can only be used when the teacher gives permission to do so as part of learning.
- Students should display courtesy, consideration and respect for others when using a mobile/smart phone.
- During recess, lunch and bus travel, it is recommended that students use "soundless" features such as text messaging, answering services, call diversion and vibration alert to receive important calls.
- The same expectations apply to all camps and excursions.
- They must be used by students in a respectful way that considers the privacy of every individual.

Unacceptable use:

Mobile/Smart phones:

- must not be used in any way that disrupts any school program/activity, inside or outside the school grounds;
- are not permitted to be used by students to photograph, video or sound record any student or teacher without prior consent;
- are not permitted to be used by students to send harassing or threatening messages to other students, as they can be traced;
- must not be used to interfere with the operation of the school or emergency services, or the daily work of any other businesses or companies;
- must not be used in places banned by Department of Education and Training (DET), such as change rooms, toilets, gyms and swimming pools;
- students must note that it is a criminal offence to menace, harass or offend another person and if the school processes are deemed to be ineffective, a matter of this nature may be reported to the Police; and
- must not be taken into any examination room in the school. Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority (VCAA) bans the possession of a mobile/smart phone in any examination room. Students face disciplinary action by VCAA and the Principal. Students who are found to be in breach of the expectations may be asked to leave their mobile/smart phone at home for a period of time as negotiated with parents, and other consequences may also be implemented depending on the severity of the incident.

Teachers of students who breach these expectations will follow the Student Management Process.

The following consequences will apply:

- phone call to the parent/carer to inform them of the incident, recorded on Compass;
- phone call home and meeting arranged to discuss the incident and future strategies to prevent further issues. recorded on Compass; and
- phone call home, meeting to discuss the incident, student forfeits the right to have their mobile/smart phone at school for an agreed length of time. Recorded on Compass.

If a serious breach occurs, the consequence will be at the discretion of the Principal.