

# Mobile Phone Policy



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
- Ban anything illegal, dangerous or likely to cause disruption or harm to the smooth running of the school.

## **Responsible and acceptable use of a mobile/smart phone:**

- During class or school program time mobile/smart phones will be on airplane mode or switched off, placed on the desk so that they are visible and can only be used when the teacher gives permission to do so as part of learning.
- During recess, lunch and bus travel, students are required to use “soundless” features such as text messaging, answering services, call diversion and vibration alert to receive important calls.
- Students should use their mobile/smart phone with permission from their teacher to support and to enhance their learning. For example, taking a short video of your play to be used in your presentation or recording data during an experiment.
- Students should display courtesy, consideration and respect for others when using a mobile/smart phone.
- The same expectations apply to all camps and excursions.

## **Unacceptable use: Mobile/Smart phones:**

- 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.
- Must not be used in any way that disrupts any school program/activity, inside or outside the school grounds
- Must be used by students in a respectful way that considers the privacy of every individual by not sharing numbers, taking photos or videos.
- 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.
- Must not be used to film people and their activities without their knowledge or permission.
- Must not be used to send harassing or threatening messages, as they can be traced.

It must be noted 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.

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.

Students who breach these expectations will have the following consequences imposed:

1<sup>st</sup> offence – phone call to the parent/carer to inform them of the incident. Recorded on Compass.

2<sup>nd</sup> offence – phone call home and meeting arranged to discuss the incident and future strategies to prevent further issues. Recorded on Compass.

3<sup>rd</sup> offence – 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 may be escalated at the discretion of the Principal.

### **Acceptable Use Agreement**

I agree to use my mobile/smart phone according to the guidelines as set out in this policy for Wangaratta High School for the duration of my enrolment at this school.

I understand that three occasions of breach of these guidelines will result in me not being permitted to bring my phone to school for an agreed period of time.

Student Name:

Mentor Group:

Parent/Carer:

Date: