

MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Copperfield College's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Copperfield College and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

DEFINITIONS

A mobile phone is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

POLICY

Copperfield College understands that, while it is not desirable, students may need to bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Copperfield College:

- Students are encouraged not to bring mobile phones to school
- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored in their lockers during school hours
- When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office.
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see below for further information)

Personal mobile phone use

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

Smart watches may be worn but alerts and notifications must be turned off.

Secure storage

Mobile phones owned by students at Copperfield College are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Please note that Copperfield College does not have insurance for accidental property damage or theft. Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Copperfield College will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Copperfield College students are required to store their phones in their lockers. It is the students' responsibility to ensure their locker is locked. Lockers and lock combinations should not be shared.

Consequences for inappropriate use

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Copperfield College will be issued with consequences consistent with our student management approach.

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy:

- Students travelling to another venue for VET are permitted to carry their mobile phones. Phones must be switched off and be 'out of sight' in bags or pockets during the class.
- Further exceptions must be approved by a principal and may be granted for:
 - Medical reasons
 - For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty
 - Specific excursions and camps (Copperfield College will provide students and their parents and carers with information about items that can or cannot be brought to camps, excursions, special activities and events, including personal mobile phones)

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- Laptops and tablets
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated November 2019 and is scheduled for review November 2022.