



Guideline/Procedure

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Mobile Phones

Purpose

Good Counsel College recognises that mobile phones are integrated into many aspects of life for students.

There are endless opportunities created by technology, however, much care must be taken by users to ensure they are operated responsibly. Various research has suggested that excessive device use can have impacts on mental health and social skills.

Good Counsel College approach to mobile devices is intended to minimise distractions and promote positive social relationships.

Bringing Devices to School

The College encourages students to leave mobile devices at home due to their valuable nature. If mobile phones are required by students for before/after-school use, they are encouraged to leave these at the office or with a House Leader for the day for safe keeping. Parent/student phone contact should be made through House Leaders only – students are not permitted to make phone calls via the front office.

The College **does not** take any responsibility for lost or damaged devices.

Using Devices at School

Devices are not permitted to be used (or visible) before school from 8am, at break times, or when transitioning to or between classes. This includes headphones (including AirPods).

In the classroom, teachers will be responsible for device expectations in their environment; however, teachers must ensure that devices are used solely as a learning / educational tool.

Consequences

If a student is found in possession of a mobile device between 8am and 3pm, teachers will confiscate devices from students and pass them onto the office. Non-compliance from students **will not** be tolerated – refusal to hand devices over to staff will result in referral to a Leader of Wellbeing.

At the first instance, students will be permitted to collect their device at the end of the day and serve a detention as a consequence. Repeated infringements will require the device to be collected by a parent and will result in a further afternoon detention.

In those instances where a student has had a phone confiscated but requires the device for after-school reasons (e.g. student has driven to school on their own), a parent must contact the College to request the release of the device to the student. The student will still incur an afternoon detention to be served at a later date.

Enquiries

Enquiries about this policy must be made with the *Assistant Principal – Wellbeing*.

See Also

Please refer to the *Student Laptop Usage Agreement / Electronic Equipment Policy* for information regarding laptops and other devices.