



Policy

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Mobile & Wearable Devices

Purpose

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's approach to mobile and wearable devices is intended to minimise distractions and promote positive social relationships. These guidelines aim to support students to regulate their device use and aid them in understanding the costs and benefits of technology more broadly.

Expectations

- **Devices are not permitted to be used (or visible) before school from 8am, at break times, or when transitioning to or between classes. Any student in possession of a mobile device will have it confiscated and handed in to the admin office.**
- Good Counsel College encourages students to leave mobile and wearable devices at home due to their valuable nature. The college **does not** take any responsibility for lost or damaged devices.
- We are, however, aware of the importance that such devices play in day-to-day routines, particularly for those students who travel substantial distances to and from school.
- If mobile or wearable devices are required by students for after-school use, they are encouraged to leave these at the office or with a Leader of Wellbeing for the day for safe keeping.
- Parents/carers are reminded that the college admin office is the primary source to communicate with their young person. As such, we ask parents not to phone or text students during the school day, as students will not be able to respond.
- Communication between parents/carers and students should be made through the college office or via Leaders of Wellbeing.
- The college acknowledges that mobile technologies and associated applications have benefits for learning. Use of such technology is at the discretion of a classroom teacher and may only be used with their permission, and for an educational purpose only.
- Camera functions on mobile and wearing devices should not be used at any time on campus, unless it is for an education purpose and with the permission of a classroom teacher.

- Mobile devices are not permitted to be taken into examinations.
- Mobile devices are not to be used to send threatening or harassing messages to students or staff. This includes content intended to bully other students. This may include messages sent directly via a messaging app or via a social media platform, to a broader audience.
- These guidelines apply to all learning activities both onsite and offsite (e.g. excursions, camps and sporting events) unless other specified.
- **Wearable devices (including smart watches and headphones) are subject to the same guidelines as mobile phones, whether they are cellular, Wi-Fi or bluetooth capable.**

Consequences

First offence:

- Device confiscated and held at admin office
- Student can collect device at end of school day
- Email to parents with notification of confiscation; will refer to college mobile phone policy, to assist with conversations that may occur

Second offence:

- Device confiscated and held at admin office
- Student can collect device at end of school day
- Wednesday afternoon detention incurred
- Email to parents with notification of confiscation and detention date and time

Third offence:

- Device confiscated and held at admin office
- Parent required to collect device from office
- Wednesday afternoon detention incurred
- Parent/student conversation with Leader of Wellbeing and/or Assistant Principal (Wellbeing)

Further offences:

- Will be addressed by the Assistant Principal (Wellbeing), beginning with confiscation of device
- Parent/student meeting will be held to determine further consequences

Non-compliance from students will not be tolerated – refusal to hand devices over to staff will result in referral to a Leader of Wellbeing and an automatic Wednesday afternoon detention.

Enquiries

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

See Also

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

GCC Electronic Equipment Policy
CES Privacy Policy