



Mobile Phone and Other Electronic Devices Policy

Effective: September 2024

At Kalamunda Secondary Education Support Centre students are not permitted to have mobile phones or electronic devices such as iPods, MP3/4s, PSPs, digital cameras, smart watches or similar at school. Students who need a mobile phone or electronic device when travelling to and from school must hand these in at the school administration or place in the class safe at the beginning of the day and collect these at the end of the school day. There is no need for students to access family and friends during school time. Any necessary emergency contact can be made through the school administration.

There is no acceptable reason for any student to have a mobile phone or other electronic device at school during school hours.

Student safety travelling to and from school

The school recognises that there are times when it is appropriate and useful for students to have access to a mobile phone – for example:

- To contact parents outside school hours.
- To confirm or change arrangements made to pick up a child from extra-curricular activities.
- Security to and from school and/or work commitments.

Parents/guardians who wish their child to have a mobile phone for these reasons can arrange for the student to leave the phone at school for the day where it will be locked in the administration or class safe. Students must take the phone to school administration or the class staff at the start of the school day. The phone can be collected at the end of the school day.

Non-compliance with the policy

Students who are seen with mobile phones or other electronic devices at school will have these confiscated.

- **1st Offence:** The confiscated item will be logged and stored at the front office and can be collected by the student at the end of the school day.
- **2nd and/or Subsequent Offences:** As for the first offence, the device will be confiscated, logged and stored at the front office and can be collected by a parent or guardian and the normal behaviour management process will operate including detention and suspension.

NOTE: If a student refuses to hand their phone to a staff member then suspension may result. Upon return to school the phone will still be confiscated as for a 1st or 2nd offence.

Why are mobile phones and other electronic devices not permitted at our school?

- These devices are a distraction to students, a disruption to classes and the teaching process and they also pose security problems.
- The school cannot accept any responsibility for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) resulting from the use of these devices. Mobile phones and other expensive devices are a prized target for theft.
- Teenagers may be affected by cyber bullying as the increasing popularity of mobile telephones and other devices has helped spread this problem.
- The ease with which anonymous harassment can occur using email and SMS is a concern, as users cannot easily block unwanted or unsolicited material. It is an area of bullying where the perpetrator is invisible and undetected.
- Mobile phone and other device functions are constantly evolving and currently include SMS or text messaging, sound recording, image capture and image messaging – all of which may be used to bully. Digital bullying is insidious and powerful and can have serious consequences for those who are the subject of the attack.
- Invasion of privacy is another concern. Any person can be photographed, videoed or recorded, unaware and without permission. The possible inappropriate use of such images, which can also be digitally altered or enhanced is a very real concern.
- Many students in Education Support settings have sensory issues and playing of music, with or without headphones, can cause issues.
- Music may have inappropriate lyrics and is therefore not suitable for a school setting, especially for students with special needs.
- Security in the school grounds is also potentially compromised when a student in conflict with others chooses to enlist the help of 'outsiders' with the aid of a mobile phone (instead of reporting the problem to school staff).
- Students have rung parents directly when they are unwell and have been collected without the school's knowledge. As we have a duty of care, it is essential students are accounted for and signed out from the school.

These matters are of concern for parents, teachers and all who have responsibility for the education and care of young people.

Signed – in acknowledgement and acceptance of the above policy -

Student: _____

Parent/Carer/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____