



# THE LAKES SOUTH MORANG COLLEGE

## MOBILE PHONE POLICY

### **Purpose:**

To explain to our school community, the DET and The Lakes South Morang College's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices, such as smart watches or other communication technology, during school hours.

### **Scope:**

This policy applies to:

1. All students at The Lakes South Morang College and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices 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. "For the purpose of this policy, "mobile phone" refers to mobile phones and any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watches."

### **Policy:**

The Lakes South Morang College understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At The Lakes South Morang College:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met such as when emergencies occur. Parents or carers attempting to reach their child must do so by calling the school's office first. The office will then communicate with the student and opportunity to use the mobile device may be granted

### **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 The Lakes South Morang 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.

### **Secure storage**

Mobile phones or devices owned by students at The Lakes South Morang College are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Students are encouraged not to bring a mobile phone to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that The Lakes South Morang College does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft. Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items. Refer to the DET Personal Goods policy

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, The Lakes South Morang College will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At The Lakes South Morang College students are required to store their phones in their lockers which must be padlocked with the school's mandated lock, or handed into the school administration office to be placed in a lockable cupboard.

## **Enforcement**

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at The Lakes South Morang College may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing Student Engagement policy. In all cases the school's Consequence Flowchart will be adhered to.

At The Lakes South Morang College inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted, and particularly use of a mobile phone:

- in any way that disrupts the learning of others
- to send inappropriate, harassing or threatening messages or phone calls
- to engage in inappropriate social media use including cyber bullying
- to capture video or images of people, including students, teachers and members of the school community without their permission
- to capture video or images in the school toilets, changing rooms, swimming pools and gyms
- during exams and assessments

## **Exceptions**

Exceptions to the policy:

- may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically,
  - Health and wellbeing-related exceptions; and
  - Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite.
- can be granted by the Principal, or by the teacher for that class, in accordance with the Department's Mobile Phones Policy.

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the DET Mobile Phones Policy are:

## **Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities**

The Lakes South Morang 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 Care (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- Wearable devices
- iPads and all other personal devices
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience
- Students who are undertaking VET

## **Evaluation:**

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review cycle  
This policy has been endorsed by School Council on 22/10/2019.

## ***The Lakes South Morang College Child Safety Statement:***

*To thrive, children need a safe and supportive environment at school, at home and in the broader community; no exceptions. At The Lakes South Morang College, we believe meeting the physical and emotional needs of our students is paramount in laying the foundations for a fulfilling future. We pledge to provide an environment that has zero tolerance to child abuse and will strive to work in partnership with our parents and community members to keep our students safe every day, in every way.*