



Mobile Phone Policy – Students

Rationale:

This policy outlines the requirements of the Minister for Education relating to students using mobile phones during school hours, *which takes into account legislative requirements within the state of Victoria as set out in Ministerial Order 1125 (formally issued by the Minister for Education under section 5.2.1(2)(b) of the Education and Training Reform Act 2006).*

Mordialloc College recognises that mobile phones are an important communication tool. Some parents/carers request their child bring a mobile phone to school for before and after school use to provide safety and security for their child. Mobile phones can be improperly used, lost or damaged and it is important that teaching and learning be conducted in an environment free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions. At recess and lunch time we value the opportunity for students to communicate with each other verbally or be involved in activities rather than being focused on a device and social media applications. Mobile phones are therefore permitted at school but usage between the start of the school day (music begins), 8:55am, and end of the school day, 3:10pm, is not permitted. Therefore, once students enter the school grounds in the morning, their mobile phone should be switched off and locked in their locker.

Aims:

Mordialloc College aims to connect our students with vibrant and engaging learning communities that extend beyond the classroom. We recognise that our students are immersed in a technology rich world and aim to guide them to become flexible, efficient, conscientious, creative, safe and responsible digital citizens. Our focus is on engaging our students in participatory and authentic learning so they grow as resilient and innovative learners. Personalised digital devices are light and portable and provide students with access to a range of applications and software that will enable them to connect, create and collaborate. At Mordialloc College we support this through a BYOD program from Years 7-12 which can be an iPad, tablet or netbook of the student's choice. ***It does not include a mobile phone.***

Implementation:

Mordialloc College recognises that there are times when it is genuinely appropriate and useful for Secondary School students to have access to a mobile telephone - for example, to contact parents in emergencies travelling to and from school and/or to confirm or change a collection time after a study club session, production rehearsals or sports training, etc. However mobile phones should not be used during the school day.

The use of mobile phones at school can lead to problems such as:

- security/theft
- harassment and bullying via phone calls and SMS;
- distraction in class;
- social division;
- cheating in tests and exams;
- may lead to conflicts of interest regarding duty of care within the School.

It is neither necessary, nor acceptable, for mobile phones to be switched on or used for phone calls, listening to music, taking unauthorised digital photographs or streaming video or text/data messaging during class, recess,

lunch or study times. Mobile phone use by students should only be in cases of emergency or genuine need and should only occur outside of school hours.

Mobile telephones may be confiscated by staff if seen in use by students during class, recess, lunch or study times or at sanctioned school events. If first offense, the mobile phone will be confiscated and held with an Assistant Principal until the end of the day, at which time, the student may collect it and will be reminded of the school expectations. If second offense, the mobile phone will be confiscated and held by an Assistant Principal for the rest of the week, until a parent or guardian can come in for a meeting and collect the phone. The student and parent/guardian will be reminded of school expectations. If third offense, the mobile phone will be confiscated and held by an Assistant Principal for a term. A parent/guardian will need to come in for a meeting to discuss the seriousness of this.

Exemptions to these rules may apply and are at the discretion of the Assistant Principal/s or the Principal.

Any student who is feeling unwell at School and needs to go home must arrange this through Reception/Sickbay/Year level Coordinator. Under no circumstances may students use a mobile phone to contact home and make arrangements to leave themselves.

The following rules apply with respect to mobile phones:

1. Courtesy, consideration of and respect for others are paramount at all times
2. If mobile phones are brought to and kept at school, it is entirely at their owner's risk. The School will not accept any responsibility for theft, loss, damage, misuse or health effects (potential or actual) resulting from mobile phone use
3. Students and parents should recognise however, that mobile phones are a target for theft and accordingly, phones should always be stored in a safe and secure place
4. Parents and students should ensure that mobile phones are properly and adequately insured as personal property. It is a matter of parental responsibility to set appropriate parameters and rules for their children for such matters as frequency of use, lending the phone to others, costs of access and call cost plan, etc.
5. Parents who wish to contact their son or daughter at School in an emergency should do so through Reception. Messages will be forwarded to your son or daughter without causing disruption to lessons and students' learning
6. Mobile phones must be switched off at all times and locked in their locker with a College padlock. They should not be used in any manner or place that is disruptive to the normal routines of the School or to other people. Usage includes the sending and receiving of phone calls, listening to music, receiving broadcast data of any sort, taking unauthorised digital photographs or streaming video or text/data messaging.
7. Students are not permitted to use mobile phones during field trips, excursions or other off-campus supervised activities (unless arranged in advance). Arrangements will be in place for communication with staff members in the case of an emergency. Non-observance or breaches of these rules will result in the mobile phone being confiscated and handed to an Assistant Principal.
8. Wearable devices, iPads and other personal devices are excluded from the mobile phone policy, however all notifications must be switched off.

Senior school students (Year 10-12):

Students are not permitted to use mobile phones during class time. At the discretion of the teacher, and if a student asks in advance, the teacher may allow a student to photograph board notes if their 1:1 personal digital device does not have a camera built in.

Exemptions:

- Learning related (ILP, Specific Learning Activities)
- Health and Wellbeing (Student Health Support plan, Students who are Young Carers)
- Managing Risk when students are offsite (Camps and Excursions)

Review Cycle

This policy was last reviewed in **November 2019** and is scheduled for review on **November 2022**.