



Mobile Phones – Student Use Policy

1. Purpose

To explain to our school community the Department’s and Victoria University Secondary College’s policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones during school hours.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

1. All students enrolled at Victoria University Secondary College; and
2. Students from other schools who attend VET courses at Victoria University Secondary College (including the Trade Training Centre); and
3. Students’ personal mobile phones brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

3. Definitions

A **mobile phone** is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

4. Policy

Our college understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Victoria University Secondary College:

- Students who choose to bring a mobile phone to school are personally responsible for them and their storage
- Students who choose to bring a mobile phone to school must have it stored in their locker
- Mobile phones should not be seen, heard or accessed/used from the first bell to the last bell of the day
- Students must use headphones on their computer rather than their mobile phone if they wish to listen to audio resources such as Edrolo, Click View or other resources
- If students require a screen shot of class notes/resources, they may ask the teacher to do this who will email it to the student/s
- Students who use their mobile phone to check Compass must do so before the start of the school day
- Exceptions to this policy may be considered if certain conditions are met (see section 8 for further information)
- When emergencies occur, parents/carers should reach their child by calling the school’s office.

5. 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 school 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.



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6. Secure storage

Mobile phones owned by students 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 our college does not have insurance for personal property damage or theft. Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, they are personally responsible for their secure storage. The college provides each student with a secure locker with a combination lock for personal belongings.

Students from other schools who attend Victoria University Secondary College or the Trade Training Centre for their VET program must have their mobile phone switched off and stored in their bag. Failure to comply with this will result in any consequences as per the VET Delivery's Schools Mobile Phone Policy. Bags may be stored in a locked room at the Trade Training Centre.

7. Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phone inappropriately at our college will be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing policies and procedures.

Students will have their mobile phone confiscated by a staff member if they are found to be accessing their phone during school hours. The student's parent/carer will be contacted to pick up the mobile phone from the school. Repeated breaches will result in suspension.

At our college, inappropriate use of mobile phones constitutes any use during school hours, including recess and lunchtime, 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.

8. Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy may be considered at the discretion of the Principal in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#).

The following exceptions are allowed under the Department's Mobile Phones Policy:



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Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment planning documentation and parental consent
Students on excursions, camps and school events	Risk assessment planning documentation and parental consent
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	Risk assessment planning documentation and parental consent
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel	Risk assessment planning documentation and parental consent

9. Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Our college will provide students and their parents/carers with information about items that can or cannot be brought to camps, excursions, special activities and events, including personal mobile phones.

10. Exclusions

This policy does not apply to:

- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- iPads, laptops and all other personal devices
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience
- VUSC students who are undertaking VET at an external location.

11. Related policies and resources

- Student Computer Use Agreement
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)

12. Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of the school review cycle or as required by changes to DE&T guidelines.