

Mobile Phone Policy



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
COLLEGE *of* AGRICULTURE
Cunderdin

Off and Away All Day

The Department of Education does not permit student use of mobile phones in public schools unless for medical or teacher directed educational purposes.

At WACOA – Cunderdin student mobile phones are not permitted to be used, seen or heard at any point of the school day including recess and lunch breaks. These devices are not permitted to be used during breakfast, evening meal, evening prep (homework) or, for residential students who have access to a mobile phone, after lights out.

Within permitted usage time, mobile phones and devices are not to be used for accessing or forwarding inappropriate material. The use of electronic devices to harass or intimidate is not acceptable and will be treated as bullying. Distributing to third parties visual, audio or written material that is designed or likely to cause offence, to harass or to intimidate is considered a higher level of bullying and will lead to a period of suspension for the student/s involved. The length and type of suspension will depend on the nature of the recording and the level of distribution.

The College takes no responsibility for mobile phones or any other personal items (eg; mobile phones, iPods, cameras, laptops, etc) lost, stolen or damaged. Students are encouraged to report lost or stolen items to staff for possible referral to Police.



Conditions

It is the students' responsibility to adhere to the conditions. Devices can only be used before 8.00am or after 4.00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and after 3.20pm on Wednesday. That is, mobile phones and devices cannot be seen or heard at any point during the school day; including recess and lunch breaks or during meals and prep time.

The use of mobile phones for all students is banned:

- During the school day, including recess and lunch breaks;
- During breakfast and evening meals;
- During prep (homework/study block); and
- After lights out if residing at the College



Residential Students must leave their phones in their dorm using the lockable facilities during the school day. Students with extenuating circumstances and/or a certified medical condition that requires the use of a mobile phone or device can apply for special consideration to the Principal.

Day Students are required to leave mobile phones in their lockable locker or at the front office during the school day. Phones can be collected at the end of the day or students can opt to leave the mobile phone at home. Boarding Students are not permitted to have mobile phones in their possession during the school day, and must leave them in the dorm rooms, where a safe is available.

To support students and their families, office staff will assist students in using a College phone in the event a student does need to contact their parents and will also deliver messages phoned through by parents/caregivers.

- Smart watches must be in 'aeroplane mode' so phone calls and messages cannot be sent or received during the school day, at meal times, during prep and after lights out.
- Listening devices, such as wireless/cable headphones and ear buds, are to be turned off and neither seen nor heard during the school day, at meal times, during prep and after lights out.

Consequences and Security in School

Phone confiscated for the equivalent of five school days and five residential nights, plus one demerit point. A register will be maintained of confiscated devices and parents will be contacted. Confiscated devices will be securely stored in the front office or the residential office.

The confiscation time does not include weekends or travel time, it is school and boarding days/nights only.

The Associate Principal and Residential Manager will manage consequences and discussions with families and changes to the policy or rules is at their discretion may apply for extenuating circumstances (e.g medical IEP).

Mobile phone in residence

Rights /Responsibilities

- To access mobile phones outside of school hours while in residence meeting the Mobile Phone Policy.
- Adhere to the Mobile Phone Policy and accept consequences if they do not adhere to the policy.
- Have mobile phone off during school hours.
- Don't touch other people's mobile phones.
- Only use mobile phone for positive communication (no cyber bullying etc.).
- Respect everyone and do not use music or have too loud/ through speakers.
- From 10.00pm onwards no use of mobile phones (lights out).
- Use the alarm system on the mobile phone to wake up in the morning.
- Parents/caregivers may request to have their child's phone collected over night.



Consequences and Security in Boarding

- Mobile phone confiscated for five days/nights, plus one demerit point.
- Mobile phones will be securely stored in the Dorm Office.
- The Residential Manager, will manage consequences and discussions with families and changes to the policy or rules is at their discretion. Only for extenuating circumstances (e.g medical IEP).