

# MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE

## CHILD SAFE STATEMENT

At Mornington Secondary College we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental expectation of our college. Mornington Secondary College is committed to protecting students from abuse or harm while at school and in our care. Mornington Secondary College's Child Safety Code of Conduct is consistent with the Education Department's recommendation.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/protect/Pages/childsafestandards.aspx>

## PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Mornington Secondary College's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices; such as smart watches and iPads, during school hours.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Mornington Secondary 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."

**Securely stored** refers to a locked locker.

## POLICY

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

At Mornington Secondary College:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours
- When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office.

## 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 Mornington Secondary College during school hours, including lunchtime and recess.

## **Secure storage**

Mobile phones owned by students at Mornington Secondary College are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Please note that Mornington Secondary 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 Department's [Personal Goods policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone or other personal devices to school, Mornington Secondary College will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Mornington Secondary College students are required to store their phones in a locked locker and will not be accessed during class time.

## **Enforcement**

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Mornington Secondary College may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policy.

At Mornington Secondary College inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours**.

Consequences may include detentions, seizing of mobile phones (to be collected from the general office at the end of the school day), and suspension.

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

Mornington Secondary 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
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience
- Students in VET classes only

## **RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

## **REVIEW PERIOD**

This policy was ratified by School Council on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 and is scheduled for review on March 2022.