

## MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE

### PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Heathmont College's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal wearable devices (i.e. smartwatches) during school hours.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Heathmont College and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal wearable devices brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

### DEFINITIONS

**A mobile phone** is a telephone and any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watch with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network. This includes devices with a Bluetooth connection to a mobile phone or other device.

### POLICY

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

At Heathmont College:

Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored in their locker during school hours. Alternatively, if required students can store their phone securely in the front office.

Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see below for further information). In this instance, a formal request in writing must be made to the Principal.

When emergencies occur, parents or carers should contact the school's front office on 98714888 to reach their child.

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 Heathmont 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 owned by students at Heathmont 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 Heathmont 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.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Heathmont College will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Heathmont College students are required to store their phones in their locker. Students must ensure that their lockers are made secure with the use of the College issued padlock and they are not to share their combination with other students. Students are not allowed to use any locker other than the one that they have been issued by the College.

## Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Heathmont College may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy.

At Heathmont 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 and following written approval by the Principal, specifically,
  - Health and wellbeing-related exceptions; and
  - Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite.
- can be granted by the Principal in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#).

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#) are:

### 1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)	Unit of work, learning sequence. Documentation placed by the teacher and authorised by the Principal team.
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	Individual Learning Plan, Individual Education Plan

## 2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan
Students who are Young Carers	A localised student record

## 3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

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

Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted.

### Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Heathmont 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 events
- Travelling to and from school
- Wearable devices which are not cellular or have their Bluetooth function disabled
- iPads and all other personal devices
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience
- Students who are undertaking VET

### RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#)
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Banning, Searching and Seizing – Department Policy](#)

### REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on 29 November 2020 and is scheduled for review in November 2022.