



Camperdown College

Mobile Phone Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact 55931617

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Camperdown College's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices during school hours. For the school community to understand that students are encouraged not to bring a mobile phone to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Camperdown College and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones [and other personal mobile devices including smart watches that can send and receive communication] 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 (e.g. smartwatch) that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone, such as a **smart watch** that can send and receive communication.

POLICY

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

Permission for Junior Campus students to bring a to school must be negotiated with the Campus Principal. Permission would only be granted under extenuating circumstances.

At Camperdown College:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours – there will be no access to phones during breaks.
- Smartwatches with connectivity must have 'School Mode' enabled between 8:45am-3:15pm (JC – parents responsibility, SC – student & parents responsibility).
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see below for further information).
- When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office – it is against our communication processes for parents/ carers to contact students directly (vice versa).

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 Camperdown 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 [other personal mobile devices including smart watches] 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 Camperdown College are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Please note that Camperdown 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 [and other personal mobile devices including smart watches] to school, Camperdown College will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Camperdown College Senior Campus students are required to store their phones [and other personal mobile devices including smart watches] in the phone lockers provided upon arrival at school.

Junior Campus students must hand their phone in at the office upon arrival at school.

Enforcement

If a student is caught in possession of their phone, it will be handed in to the Campus Principal and will only be returned when a parent or guardian of that student comes to collect it - at the end of the school day or sometime after.

If a student fails to hand their phone over when requested our code of conduct will be followed: Failure to follow reasonable teacher instructions.

If it is reported that a student has a mobile phone or a teacher has the belief that they have one teachers will follow the Department's [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items guidelines](#).

Students who use their personal mobile phones [and other personal mobile devices including smart watches] inappropriately at Camperdown College may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student wellbeing and engagement policies, code of conduct and bullying and harassment policies.

At Camperdown 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 circumvent agreed communication processes
- 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, specifically,
 - Health and wellbeing-related exceptions; and
 - Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite.
- can be granted by the principal or by the teacher of a specific class after approval has been sought and granted from the principal/campus 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)	PDS – VM program for project work only. Other to be approved by teacher of a specific class after approval sought and granted from the principal/campus principal.

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Support plan from a medical practitioner.
Students who are Young Carers	A localised student record negotiated with wellbeing officer and principal/campus principal.

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment planning documentation or by the teacher of a specific class after approval sought and granted from the principal/campus principal.
Students on excursions and camps:	Risk assessment planning documentation or by the teacher of a specific class after approval sought and granted from the principal/campus principal.
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental and school 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. Students with a granted exception are unable to share the use of their phone with other students.

Failure to adhere to this will result in confiscation of the phone or in medical related circumstances the use of the phone will be supervised.

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Camperdown 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.

As a general rule, mobile phones will not be permitted on camps. Approval to include phones on camps must be sought from the principal/campus principal.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to:

- Out-of-school-hours events.
- Travelling to and from school.
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience.
- Students who are undertaking VET. However, students participating in CTTC courses in neighbouring schools must abide by the provider schools mobile phone policy.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Camperdown College Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Code of Conduct and Bullying and Harassment Policies
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy is scheduled for reviewed every 3-4 years.

Policy last reviewed	February 2025
Consultation	School Council SRC
Approved by	Principal & School Council
Next scheduled review date	February 2028