

MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE POLICY

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- All students at Braybrook College
- 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. **NOTE:** 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 or iPads.

POLICY

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

At Braybrook College:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored from 8.50am until the end of the school day
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see below for further information)
- If 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 Braybrook 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

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, there are two ways a student can securely store their phones:

- i. By using their own lockers; or
- ii. Using the college's separate mobile phone lockers

Please be aware that mobile phones owned by students at Braybrook 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 Braybrook 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 college's Personal Property Policy.

Enforcement

Students who fail to comply with mobile phone policy rules, including if they refuse to relinquish their phones to school staff when instructed, will be issued with consequences consistent with our school's student engagement policy and Departmental discipline policies.

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 Class Team 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
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception
Students with some health conditions (assessed as high-risk by a health professional)
Students who are Young Carers

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception
Travelling to and from excursions
Students on excursions and camps
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission

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

Braybrook 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
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience
- Students who are undertaking external VET courses

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Mobile Phones - Department Policy

(Below are optional references to Department policy)

- Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items
- Personal Goods - Department policy