



PERSONAL USE OF MOBILE ELECTRONIC DEVICES 2021



Last Updated by
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*Side by Side
Beneath the Southern Cross
We Strive and Achieve*

PERSONAL USE OF MOBILE ELECTRONIC DEVICES 2021

Use of Mobile Phones (including smart watches and devices, and associated listening accessories such as but not limited to headphones and ear buds).

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

Bullsbrook College does not allow the use of smartphones as part of the BYOD policy.

To support staff and students in maintaining a safe and well-ordered learning environment for all, there is no place in our school for the disruptions caused by discourteous and inappropriate use of mobile phones. **At Bullsbrook College mobile phones are *not to be seen, heard or used* while students are on school grounds. This includes all break times. “Off and away all day”, mobile phones are not permitted to be in pockets or on a student’s person during the school day.**

PREVENTING INAPPROPRIATE USE OF MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOLS

While it is understandable that some parents provide mobile phones to their children for safety and other reasons, we must protect the safety of all students in our care and the maintenance of good order in our schools. Not only is mobile phone use disruptive, using mobile cameras (still and video) to film people and their activities without their knowledge and/or permission is an invasion of privacy and will not be allowed.

PERSONAL SAFETY AND SECURITY

Bullsbrook College accepts that parents give their children personal technologies to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also ever-increasing concern about children travelling alone on public transport or commuting long distances to school. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can speak with their child quickly at any time.

HOWEVER, DURING THE SCHOOL DAY, STUDENTS ARE CARED FOR AND HAVE ACCESS TO CARING ADULTS (AND TELEPHONES) AT SCHOOL. CONTACT DURING SCHOOL OR CLASS TIME IS POTENTIALLY DISRUPTIVE TO SCHOOL ORDER. BULLSBROOK COLLEGE REQUIRES STUDENTS PHONES ARE SWITCHED OFF WHILST ON SCHOOL GROUNDS. **ALL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARENTS AND STUDENTS, DURING SCHOOL HOURS, SHOULD OCCUR VIA THE SCHOOL’S ADMINISTRATION.**

It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile phones onto school premises to adhere to the guidelines outlined in this document. The decision to provide a mobile phone to their children should be made by parents or guardians with the full knowledge of our school policy and expectations for the student to support it.

Please note that all students in **Kindergarten to Year 6** who bring a phone to school must hand that phone in for safekeeping for the day.

All students in Years 7 to 12 may have their phone in their possession, but must turn it off and keep it out of sight in their bag or locker until they leave school premises at the end of the school day.

ACCEPTABLE USES

Mobile phones should be switched off at all times during the day. Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office is the vital and appropriate point of contact. It is the responsibility of the school staff to ensure your child is reached quickly, and assisted in any appropriate way. **For that reason, we request that students are not phoned directly on their phone during school hours.**

Please contact the school office if the situation is urgent and requires immediate contact.

While on school premises, students are not permitted to use mobile phones for any reason. Once they have finished the school day phones may be switched on again after exiting the school grounds.

EXEMPTIONS

1. Medical grounds – if there is a school approved documented health care plan which includes the use of the phone for an emergency, then an exemption will be granted for that student on that plan under the stated conditions of the health care plan.
2. Teaching strategy - if a teacher gives a direct instruction for the use of the phone for an *educational purpose* only then students will be able to use the phone for that particular purpose.

UNACCEPTABLE USES

Mobile phones should not be used for any reason including to make calls (including to parents/caregivers), send sms messages, surf the internet, take photos or uses any other applications during school.

Students who offend will face disciplinary actions (including confiscation of the phone to be collected by a parent/caregiver and/or a suspension from school) as sanctioned by the Principal, Associate Principal or Program Coordinator. At the beginning of each year Cohort Assemblies are held to ensure that every secondary student is clear about the policy. Ignorance of the policy is not an acceptable reason for breaching this policy.

Of particular importance is the use of phones for videoing other students or staff. Under no circumstances is this considered acceptable without the permission of the principal. Should there be any physical contact between students in which harm or aggression is in evidence, including videoing of that contact, this may be considered to be a serious breach of the policy and will result in suspension from school – and removal of ‘good standing’ for students involved.

QUERIES OR CONCERNS

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries or concerns about our policy.

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Chittering Road, Bullsbrook, WA 6084

Office: 9501 7600

E-mail: Bullsbrook.college@education.wa.edu.au

Website: www.bullsbrook-college.wa

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