



MACLEOD COLLEGE

A STATE P-12 SCHOOL

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

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

This policy is to provide the framework under which Macleod College and The Department of Education and Training outlines their requirements and expectations relating to students accessing and using mobile phones during school hours.

Purposes:

To provide a direction to all students at Macleod College regarding the use and storage of their personal mobile phones brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

Definition:

A **mobile phone** is a device 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 any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone including smart watches.

Implementation:

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Macleod 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.

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

At Macleod College

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored in their locker during school hours
- 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 Macleod College general office

See Appendix 1 for additional information on:

- Enforcement
- Secure storage of device
- Exceptions
- Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities
- Exclusions

Related policies and resources:

- Student wellbeing and engagement policy
- Anti bullying policy
- Safe use of digital device policy
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

Evaluation:

A major evaluation should occur on a three-year cycle to provide a fundamental review of the program. The Policy and Planning Committee of Council should carry out this evaluation. Outcomes and recommendations should then be directed to the College Council.

Endorsement Date:

College Council endorsement – Not Applicable

Consultation Process and working Party Information:

Group	Consultation
Learning Improvement Team	
Staff	✓
Students (SRC or other randomly selected group)	
Randomly selected group of parents	
Members of the Community	✓
College council	✓
Other (where relevant please specify)	Student managers

APPENDIX 1:

Enforcement

At Macleod 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

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Macleod College may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement and management guidelines

- First offence: Phone confiscated for the day and COMPASS Chronicle Entry logged.
- Second offence: Phone confiscated for the day, 45 minute after school detention, parents contacted and COMPASS chronicle entry logged
- Third offence: Phone confiscated and not returned until parent comes in for a meeting, 45 minute afterschool detention and COMPASS chronicle entry logged

Secure storage

Mobile phones 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 Macleod 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, Macleod College will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Macleod College students are required to store their phones either in their lockers or handed into the school administration office to be placed in a lockable cupboard

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 for that class, 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 – approval outlining the educational rationale must be obtained by the classroom teacher from Teaching and Learning prior to the use of these in class	Unit of work, learning sequence
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

Macleod 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
- iPads and all other personal devices
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience
- Students who are undertaking VET