

Purpose

To explain to our school community the Department of Education and *Mildura Senior College's* policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones during school hours.

Scope

This policy applies to:

1. All students at *Mildura Senior College* and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones 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.

Policy

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

At *Mildura Senior College*:

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

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 *Mildura Senior 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.

To assist others to be aware of the student's exemption, the student must carry their exemption card at all times when they have their phone. We suggest putting inside their phone case or attaching it to the outside of the phone case. Exemption Cards will be provided to students by an Assistant Principal when their exemption is approved.

Secure storage

Mobile phones owned by students at *Mildura Senior 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 *Mildura Senior 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 Department's [Personal Goods](#) policy.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, *Mildura Senior College* will provide secure storage, the student locker. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At *Mildura Senior 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. Student do so at their own risk. If students hand their phone into the Office all measures will be taken to keep the device secure and safe but Mildura Senior is not responsible for any damage or theft of the phone.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at *Mildura Senior College* may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies - *Student Wellbeing and Engagement*. Students who cannot self-regulate their phone use will be required to hand it in to the office. Continued misuse will require parents to collect the phone from the school.

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At *Mildura Senior 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
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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,
 - Where a student may be a carer for parents or younger siblings.
- can be granted by the principal, or by the teacher for that class, in accordance with the Department’s [Mobile Phones Policy](#).
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The three categories of exemptions allowed under the Department’s [Mobile Phones Policy](#) are:

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1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)	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 and must carry their allocated exemption card with them at all times to show others of their exemption.

Students and parents should apply for an exemption using the Mobile Phone Exemption Application Form. The exception form can be found at the College Office, completed as a part of Medical Plan meetings or as Appendix 1 on the electronic copy of this policy on our Website.

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Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Mildura Senior 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:

- Homework club
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- Wearable devices
- iPads and all other personal devices
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience
- Students who are undertaking VET off site e.g. TAFE

Related policies and resources

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- 1.19 Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- 1.29 Inclusion & Diversity Policy (Includes Equal Opportunity & Sexual Harassment)
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

eSafety advice <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

iParent - Where you can learn about the digital environment and how to help your child have safe and enjoyable online experiences. <https://esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent>

Reporting Cyberbullying: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/complaints-and-reporting/cyberbullying-complaints/cyberbullying-a-guide-for-parents>

Student Information

Young and eSafe <https://www.esafety.gov.au/youngandesafe>

The Mere Presence of Your Smartphone Reduces Brain Power, Study Shows

Intro article <https://news.utexas.edu/2017/06/26/the-mere-presence-of-your-smartphone-reduces-brain-power>

Full study <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/691462>

Key points:

- the mere presence of one's own smartphone may occupy limited-capacity cognitive resources, thereby leaving fewer resources available for other tasks and undercutting cognitive performance
- these cognitive costs are highest for those highest in smartphone dependence
- participants with their phones in another room significantly outperformed those with their phones on the desk, and they also slightly outperformed those participants who had kept their phones in a pocket or bag
- it didn't matter whether a person's smartphone was turned on or off, or whether it was lying face up or face down on a desk - having a smartphone within sight or within easy reach reduces a person's ability to focus and perform tasks because part of their brain is actively working to *not* pick up or use the phone

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Psychology and neuroscience blow-up the myth of effective multitasking

Intro article <https://www.inc.com/scott-mautz/psychology-and-neuroscience-blow-up-the-myth-of-effective-multitasking.html>

Key points:

- We sacrifice our power of full presence when we're multitasking, and we do so for a perceived benefit of improved productivity that simply doesn't exist.
- Research also shows that multitasking, i.e. trying to do two cognitive things at the same time, simply can't be done--the mind doesn't work that way.
- Studies have shown that it takes four times longer for the brain to recognize new things (further slowing down task completion) and that we have a much lower retention rate of what we learn while we are multitasking

Mobile phones in the classroom: A helpful or harmful hindrance?

Intro article <https://psychopaedia.org/learning-and-development/mobile-phones-in-the-classroom-a-helpful-or-harmful-hindrance/>

Key points:

- Mobile phones can have a negative impact on learning through distraction and that their removal from the classroom can yield an improvement in student performance, especially for the most vulnerable.
- Students who did not use smartphones while participating in a lecture wrote 62 per cent more information in their notes and were able to recall more information than their phone-using counterparts.
- With problematic phone use now considered a risk behaviour alongside alcohol, tobacco and marijuana use, schools should ensure they are addressing the psychological, social and health issues associated with technology (e.g. a lack of sleep from late night phone use, cyber bullying, sexting).

Review and Evaluation

<i>Ratified by:</i>	SOP	<i>Ratified date:</i>	16.12.2019
<i>Document Owner:</i>	Principal	<i>Reviewed date:</i>	16.12.2022
<i>S:\Admin\Policy Docs\Policy Register</i>		<i>Review Cycle:</i>	3 Yearly
<i>Principal Approval:</i>			

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APPENDIX A



MOBILE PHONE EXEMPTION APPLICATION FORM

Mildura Senior College aims to support the individual needs of all students. The College recognises for some students Mobile Phones can be required for special personal circumstances, personal health and wellbeing needs and that an exemption from the Mobile Phone Policy (no phone access at school) may be required.

To apply for an exemption students must complete the application form below. If successful students will be issued with an exemption card which must be carried with them at all times whilst at school. Student are not permitted to provide this card to another students under any circumstances and they must show this card when needing to use their mobile phone. Student must only use their phone for the exemption provide and must still maintain a silent and out of sight approach.

Student Details			
Student Name			
Pathways		Year Level	
Signature			Date
Reason for Request			
<input type="checkbox"/> Learning related exemptions	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & wellbeing related exemptions	<input type="checkbox"/> Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Please provide a brief description as to why this reason requires you to use your mobile phone during school times?			
Phone use required: e.g. how do you need to use your phone to support your reason whilst at school?			
<input type="checkbox"/> I acknowledge that the information stated on this application are true and correct.			
<input type="checkbox"/> I acknowledge that if my application is successful that I will carry my exemption card at all times whilst at school and show it on request and when I am required to use my mobile phone. If exemption is approved I will not provide my card to any other student under any circumstances.			
Parent/Carers Name			
Parent Signature			Date

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MOBILE PHONE POLICY MILDURA SENIOR COLLEGE CAMPUS

1.36

<i>Office Use</i>			
Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
If not approved – Provide Reason			
<input type="checkbox"/> Exception Card Provided	<input type="checkbox"/> Compass – form uploaded	Date	
Name			
Position			
Signature		Date	