

# MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE POLICY



## HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact Koo Wee Rup Secondary College on (03) 5997 1444.

## PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Koo Wee Rup Secondary 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:

1. All students at Koo Wee Rup Secondary College and students' mobile phones and other personal 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. 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. This also includes communication peripherals such as headphones and air pods.

## POLICY

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

At Koo Wee Rup Secondary College:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored 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 school's office.

### Personal mobile phone use

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones – Student Use Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Koo Wee Rup Secondary 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

Mobile phones owned by students at Koo Wee Rup Secondary 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 Koo Wee Rup Secondary 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 [Koo Wee Rup Secondary College's Personal Property Policy AND/OR the Department's [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Koo Wee Rup Secondary College will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Koo Wee Rup Secondary 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.

## Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Koo Wee Rup Secondary College may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and/or *Code of Conduct* or *Bullying* policies.

At Koo Wee Rup Secondary College use of mobile phones is **not permitted during school hours** unless an exception has been granted. This includes use of 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

## 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 — Student Use Policy](#).

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#) are:



### 1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)	Unit of work/learning sequences/lesson plan provided by teacher. Teacher has completed proforma and has Principal approval.
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	Evidence from medical practitioner and Student Health Support Plan
Students who are Young Carers	Appropriate evidence of carer status and agreed upon times to check phone - A localised student record

### 3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Excursion notification. Risk assessment planning documentation
Students on excursions and camps	Camp and/or excursion notification. Risk assessment planning documentation
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	Excursion notification. Risk assessment planning documentation
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel	Evidence of VET/VCAL/SBAT enrolment – only for purpose of 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

Koo Wee Rup Secondary 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
- Wearable devices
- iPads and all other personal devices
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g., work experience
- Students who are undertaking VET

## COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website (or insert other online parent/carers/student communication method)
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in school newsletter
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)
- [Weapons — Banning, Searching and Seizing Harmful Items](#)
- [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Created Date	8 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
Consultation	College Council March 2022
Endorsed By	Stuart Jones, Acting Principal
Endorsed On	March 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
Next Review Date	March 2023