

Rationale

Mobile phones are a valued communication tool, however, they can easily be improperly used, lost or damaged and must therefore be managed by our school effectively. Weeroona College Bendigo acknowledges that there are times when it is genuinely appropriate and beneficial for students to have access to a mobile phone and/or other similar electronic device but we are also aware that their use at school can be disruptive to the learning environment for students and staff.

Guidelines

- Unless otherwise instructed by the classroom teacher, the College expects that all students should have their mobile phones and other similar electronic devices switched off and out of sight during classes. This also applies to school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.
- Students can use their mobile phones and similar electronic devices before or after school, or during recess and lunch breaks.
- There is an expectation that students will display courtesy, consideration and respect for others whenever they are using a mobile phone.
- In-phone cameras are not to be used anywhere a normal camera would be considered inappropriate, such as in change rooms or toilets.
- In-phone recorders/cameras are not to be used anywhere a normal recorder/camera would be considered inappropriate. Students may be asked to place mobile phones that they have in their possession on the table in front of them when being interviewed by staff.
- Students should ensure that their mobile phones and similar electronic devices are always stored in a safe and secure place. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to personal property brought to school.
- Staff are asked to use their professional discretion in regards to their use of mobile phones when they are at work.

Actions

- A student who does not comply with the policy guidelines will initially have their mobile phone or similar electronic device confiscated by the classroom teacher and given to the Learning Community Leader to keep until the end of the day. Exception Session 4 when classroom teacher may return the phone at the end of the session. This will be recorded on Weeroona Learning Support Dashboard (WLSA) by the class room teacher involved. A second confiscation will result in the mobile phone or other similar electronic device being taken to the General Office for collection by a parent. This should be recorded on the WLSA by the classroom teacher involved.
- Appropriate action will be taken against any student who photographs, records or films other individuals without their consent or sends harassing or threatening messages. This includes the posting of mobile phone photos on the internet (cyber bullying). This action may include Police notification
- Disciplinary action will be taken against any student/s who is/are caught using a mobile phone to cheat in exams or assessments.
- Mobile phones are used at their owners' risk and school resources will not be used to try to find a lost/stolen mobile phone or similar electronic device.