



Kalamunda Senior High School

An Independent Public School

Mobile phone and other electronic devices policy



Learning - Respect - Resilience - Pride - community

Mobile phone and other electronic devices policy

At Kalamunda Senior High School students are not permitted to have mobile phones or electronic devices such as iPods, MP3/4s, PSPs, digital cameras or similar at school. Arrangements can be made for students who need a mobile phone when travelling to and from school for the phone to be left at Student Services during the day. There is no need for students to access family and friends during school time. Any necessary emergency contact can be made through the administration.

There is no acceptable reason for any student to have a mobile phone or other electronic device at school during school hours.

Student safety travelling to and from school

The school recognizes that there are times when it is appropriate and useful for students to have access to a mobile phone – for example:

- To contact parents outside school hours.
- To confirm or change arrangements made to pick up a child from music rehearsals, sport practice or similar activities.
- Security to and from school and / or part time work commitments.

Parents/guardians who wish their child to have a mobile phone for these reasons can arrange for the student to leave the phone at school for the day. Students must take the phone to Student Services before school where the phone will be stored securely with the relevant student details recorded. The phone can be collected at the end of the school day.

Non-compliance with the policy

Students who are seen with mobile phones or other electronic devices at school will have these confiscated.

- **1st Offence:** The confiscated item will be logged and stored at the front office and can be collected by a parent or guardian. **These devices will not be returned to students.**
- **2nd and/or Subsequent Offences:** As for the first offence, the device will be confiscated, logged and stored at the front office and can be collected by a parent or guardian. Students will lose their Good Standing status and the normal behaviour management process will operate including detention and suspension.

NOTE: If a student refuses to hand their phone to a staff member then suspension will result. Upon return to school the phone will still be confiscated as for a 1st or 2nd offence.

Why are mobile phones and other electronic devices not permitted at our school?

- These devices are a distraction to students, a disruption to classes and the teaching process and they also pose security problems.
- The school cannot accept any responsibility for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) resulting from the use of these devices. Mobile phones and other expensive devices are a prized target for theft.
- Teenagers are some of the worst perpetrators of cyber bullying and the increasing popularity of mobile telephones and other devices has helped spread this problem.
- The ease with which anonymous harassment can occur using email and SMS is a concern, as users can not easily block unwanted or unsolicited material. It is an area of bullying where the perpetrator is invisible and undetected.
- Mobile phone and other device functions are constantly evolving and currently include SMS or text messaging, sound recording, image capture and image messaging – all of which may be used to bully. Digital bullying is insidious and powerful and can have serious consequences for those who are the subject of the attack.
- Invasion of privacy is another concern. Any person can be photographed, videoed or recorded, unaware and without permission. This can occur at any time and in any circumstance, for example, in students' change rooms. The possible inappropriate use of such images, which can also be digitally altered or enhanced, is a very real concern.
- With the capabilities that mobile phones and other devices have, security of students and staff, security of confidential school information such as tests, examinations and assessment procedures and the possibility of students cheating are potentially major issues.
- Security in the school grounds is also potentially compromised when a student in conflict with others chooses to enlist the help of “outsiders” with the aid of a mobile phone (instead of reporting the problem to school staff).
- Students have rung parents directly when they are unwell and have been collected without the school's knowledge. As we have a duty of care it is essential students are accounted for and signed out from the school.

These matters are of concern for parents, teachers and all who have responsibility for the education and care of young people.

Endorsement of the policy

The School Board has endorsed the school policy of a ban on students having mobile phones and other electronic devices at school.

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