



# STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE

## **Student Electronic Devices Policy**

### **Rationale:**

- Electronic Devices are increasingly prevalent in schools and many students carry them during the day. While parents provide mobile phones to their children for safety, to make arrangements and others reasons, it is essential that students learning is not disrupted by Electronic Devices and that they are not used for inappropriate reasons.
- The widespread ownership of Electronic Devices among young people requires school administrators; teachers, students and parents take steps to ensure that they are used responsibly.
- Students and their parents/care-givers must read and understand this policy, which also applies during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.
- This policy reflects the DEECD guidelines and applies while the student is at school, travelling on school provided transport, school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities and will be supported by Parents/ Guardians.

### **Aims:**

- To encourage appropriate and mature use of electronic devices in daily life.
- To reduce the risk of cyber-bullying, sexting, cyber harassment, discrimination, etc.
- To ensure that teaching and learning is not interrupted by the use of electronic devices.
- To ensure that valuable electronic devices are not lost, stolen or damaged at school. Neither the College nor the Department of Education and Training (DET) provide insurance cover for electronic devices and personal belongings lost or damaged at school.

### **Definitions:**

<b>Word</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Electronic Devices	Mobile Phones, iPod/MP3 Players, digital organisers, Laptop computers, Tablets/iPads, Portable Gaming devices and mobile Internet connection devices, etc.
SMS	Short Message Service

### **Responsibilities:**

- It is the responsibility of the persons who bring electronic devices to school to use them appropriately.
- It is the responsibility of the persons who bring the electronic devices to school to ensure their security and wellbeing.

### **Implementation:**

Generally, an electronic device is being used inappropriately if it:



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- disrupts or is likely to disrupt the learning environment, including the concentration of any person in the classroom, or interfere with the operation of the school or institute, or
- threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or well being of any person, or
- is in breach of any common law.

## **The Students will:**

- Have their Electronic Devices switched off and out of sight during class.
- Only use their Electronic Devices before or after school, or during recess and lunch breaks
- Display courtesy, consideration and respect for others when using an Electronic Devices
- Ensure that their Electronic Devices are always stored in a safe and secure place.
- Must not be used to send harassing or threatening messages.

## **The School will:**

- Accept no responsibility for the loss of, or damage to, a student's Electronic Devices.
- Take no responsibility for the contents on the Electronic Devices unless it occurs at School
- Will contact the police if there is any evidence of illegal or threatening activity resulting from the use of Electronic Devices.
- Support teachers in allowing students to use Electronic Devices in class for learning purposes such as Edrolo and Clickview and will be at the discretion of the teacher. Listening to music is not considered for learning purposes.
- Support Teachers in allowing senior students (11/12) to use Electronic Devices to listen to music when studying and will be at the discretion of the teacher.

## **Electronic Device cameras (still and video) must not be used:**

- In banned spaces for example changing rooms, toilets, gyms and swimming pools
- To film people and their activities without their knowledge or permission.

## **Stawell Secondary College guidelines:**

- Neither the Department of Education and Training nor Stawell Secondary College has insurance to cover private goods if lost, stolen or damaged, and cannot reimburse staff or students in this instance.
- Stawell Secondary College accepts no liability in the event of the loss, theft or damage of any such device.
- Students are advised to leave their mobile phone at the General office for safekeeping as they arrive at school. The phone may be collected at the end of the school day. Students must only use their mobile phones outside of class time.



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- Parents and guardians wishing to leave messages for their children should do so by telephoning the College of 5358 1700. Staff will endeavour to pass messages on.
- General Office staff will assist students who need to contact family or other persons.
- This policy also applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities, unless expressly permitted by the supervising teacher.

## **What Parents/ Caregivers can do:**

- Be supportive of our responsibilities to ensure that Stawell Secondary College has a safe environment.
- Be aware of what your child is downloading.
- Be aware that threatening emails can be followed up through the Government's tracking system. The laws about threatening emails or SMS messages have been changed and people can now be charged. Discourage children from bringing or inappropriately using electronic devices.
- Understand that if electronic devices are lost, stolen or misplaced, no effort will be made to find the 'culprits' by school staff.
- Be aware that students can be legally charged for cyber bullying.
- Download a free Internet content filter to help block, monitor and screen inappropriate websites. Encourage your child to keep passwords confidential.

## **Loss, damage and theft**

- Students and parents are reminded the students bringing electronic devices to the school or institute at their own risk – the school will not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to electronic devices.

## **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle in February every year in accordance with the Child Safety Policy. The review will be led by the Wellbeing Team and referred to the Policy Sub-Committee and School Council for ratification.