



STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE

Mobile Phone Policy

Rationale

Stawell Secondary College in accordance with the Department of Education and Training, takes the safe and responsible use of digital technologies, student personal safety and wellbeing, and the development of social skills and positive behaviour, very seriously. On this basis, the Hon. James Merlino MP, Minister for Education, announced that a new mobile phone policy would take effect from Term 1 2020.

Whilst the Victorian Government acknowledges that we live in a technology-rich world where mobile phones are an important communication tool, research has found that mobile phones can be disruptive in classrooms and open to misuse at school. The unregulated presence of mobile phones in classrooms can undermine students' capacity to think, learn, remember, pay attention and regulate emotion.

Aim

- To assist teachers in maintaining a productive and safe learning environment, free from the interference and distractions created by mobile phones.

Definitions:

Word	Definition
Cyber-safe Environment	The safe and responsible use of Information and Communication Technologies at school.

Policy

From Term 1 2020, students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours (9.00am to 3.25pm) in their locker.

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy:

- may be applied during school hours for:
 1. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions
 2. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite
- can be granted by the principal, or principal's delegate
- must be documented on the School Management System (XUNO)

Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted.

Implementation:

To assist our students' learning and to maintain a safe environment, we request that students do not bring their mobile phone to school.

If brought to school, mobile phones must:



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- Be turned off
- Be stored securely in the student's own locker from 9.00am to 3.25pm
- Be taken home at the end of the school day

Responsibilities of Students:

- Students choosing to bring mobile phones to school accept sole responsibility for their care. As with other personal items, the school takes no responsibility for phones that are lost, damaged or stolen.
- Mobile phones must be stored in the student's own locker from 9.00am to 3.25pm.
- Students seeking exceptions may discuss this with their Year level Coordinator.
- Students are expected to comply respectfully if approached by a staff member about breaches of these procedures.

Responsibilities of Parents:

- Parents and/or carers are requested to make contact via the General Office for urgent messages to be passed on to a student.

Responsibilities of Teachers:

- Teachers will model appropriate mobile phone use when in class.
- Teachers will confiscate mobile phones for breaches of the mobile phone policy.
- Teachers will deliver any confiscated phone in a named envelope to the House Office before the end of the school day.

Responsibilities of the College:

- The College will provide non-mobile phone alternatives for education, where laptop use is impractical, such as cameras in Art.
- The College will provide lockable lockers or a padlock for alternative lockers.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle in accordance with the Child Safe Policy, in February, every year. The review will be led by the Principal and referred to the Policy Subcommittee and School Council for ratification.

Last reviewed: October 2023
Date of next review: October 2024



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Update history:

First issued	October 2018
Date of update	Summary of change(s)
28 August 2019	Position title to include year level coordinator. Phones remain in the student lockers for the duration of the school day. Policy applies to all year levels.
30 January 2020	Implement mobile phone management procedure. Policy amended to align with the recent government policy requiring mobile phones to be prohibited from used during the school day.
October 2023	Change Victorian Government to Department of Education and Training Included personal within student safety in the rationale.