

MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact (03) 5987 26 49
or [Interpreting and Translation Services](#)

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Peninsula 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 Peninsula College and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile 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 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 or Tablets with cellular connections.

POLICY

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

At Peninsula 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.

This does not include any Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices or health management systems. For further information, please see: Health & Communication Device Policy

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 Peninsula 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.

(a) Mobile Phone and Personal Device Use

Mobile phones or devices must:

- Not be used during class or assemblies or in any way;
- Not be used to send messages or phone calls;
- Not be used to engage in social media;
- Not be used to capture video or images of people of the school community with or without their permission; or
- Not be used as a research tool or e-learning resource.

Students who use their mobile phone inappropriately or failure to follow school mobile phone policy will be required to:

1. Hand their phone/device over to staff to be secured in a lockbox; or
2. Stored securely at a leader's office or administration office.

Failure to follow these guidelines, students will be;

- Instructed to leave their phone at home.

(b) Insurance

Students are responsible for their mobile phone or any other electronic device. Peninsula Specialist College does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage (nor does the Department of Education). Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items, including mobile phones that may be brought to school. Students are responsible for items brought to school including any accidental or intentional property damage, theft, or misplacement.

(c) Camps and Excursions

In most circumstances, students will be permitted to bring their mobile phones on overnight school camps or excursions, however the same rules will apply (i.e. locked away until use is permitted). Peninsula Specialist College will provide students and their parents and carers with information about items that can be brought to special activities and events, including mobile phones.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

• Child Safety, Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policies, Internet usage Policy

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 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	Student Health Support Plan
Students who are Young Carers	A localised student record

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment planning documentation per event
Students on excursions and camps	Risk assessment planning documentation per event
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	Risk assessment planning documentation per school activity
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel	Risk assessment planning documentation on a case-by-case basis

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Communicated to the school community on Compass

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	September 2026
Consultation	School Council, SRC & School Community 2023
Approved by	Principal Trevor Hodsdon 
Next scheduled review date	By 2030