



Antonine College Mobile Phone Policy- Student Use

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Antonine 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 Antonine College and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices such as smart watches and I pads, 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. This includes any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watches with their own sim.

POLICY

Antonine College understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently or using the school bus service to and from school.

At Antonine College:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored in a locked locker from the hours of 8:40am- 3:15pm.
- 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: (03) 9354 1377

Personal mobile phone use

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Antonine 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 only for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.

Secure storage

Mobile phones owned by students at Antonine College are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Students are encouraged not to bring a mobile phone to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that Antonine College does not have insurance for accidental or deliberate property damage or theft. Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items. Department's [Personal Goods policy](#).]

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Antonine College will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so

- Cedar Campus students who bring mobile phones to school will need to leave these at the front office at the beginning of the school day and collect them at the end of the school day. These will be labelled and securely locked for the day. It is preferred that Cedar students do not bring mobile phones to school but we understand that some parents need to contact students after school for pick up.
- St Joseph Campus students are required to store their phones in their locker. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they secure their locker with locks provided and that it is locked at all times.



Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones during school hours or inappropriately at Antonine College will be issued with the following consequences that is in line with the College Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy's Tiered Approach:

- 1st Infringement- Warning that is recorded on Behaviour Tracking with a Parent Notification Letter
- 2nd Infringement- Mobile Phone is handed to Student Services for 5 consecutive school days
- Subsequent Infringement(s)- Phone is Confiscated and Parent Meeting requested with relevant school leader.

At Antonine College inappropriate use of mobile phones is any use during school hours, unless an exception has been granted, and particularly use of a mobile phone:

- in any way that disrupts the learning of others
- to send inappropriate, harassing or threatening messages or phone calls
- to engage in inappropriate social media use including cyber bullying
- to capture video or images of people, including students, teachers and members of the school community without their permission
- to capture video or images in the school toilets, swimming pools or excursions
- during exams and assessments

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 **only** be granted by a member of the Leadership team, in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#).

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's Mobile Phones 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. This is to be negotiated with the Learning Diversity Leader at the relevant campus.	Personalised Learning Plan

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific Exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Medical Plan i.e diabetes
Students who are young carers or experiencing extenuating circumstances	Case Management Team Notes



3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific Exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students on excursions	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students on camps	Risk assessment planning documentation
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel ie. VET	Risk assessment planning documentation

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

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Antonine College will provide students and their parents and carers with information about items that can or cannot be brought to camps, excursions, special activities and events, including personal mobile phones.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Mobile Phones- Department Policy](#)
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)
- [Personal Goods- Department Policy](#)
- Antonine College Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy can be located on our College website or via PAM and SIMON

Review period

This policy was updated January 2020 and is scheduled for review December 2022