

MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the General Office on 5155 2982.

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Lakes Entrance Secondary College's policy requirements and expectations regarding students' use of mobile phones.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Lakes Entrance Secondary College and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones 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.

POLICY

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

At Lakes Entrance Secondary College:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely store them in the lockable phone cases provided at the front office or in their lockers. 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 general office.
- If students' phones are stored in the lockable case, the case will be brought to their Session 5 class for collection under the supervision of a school staff member.
- When students are required to leave the College early, they can sign out and retrieve their phone from the General Office.

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 Lakes Entrance Secondary 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.

Secure storage

Mobile phones owned by students at Lakes Entrance Secondary College are considered valuable items brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Please note that Lakes Entrance Secondary College does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft. Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items. Refer to the Department's [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Lakes Entrance Secondary College will provide secure storage. *Secure storage* refers to storage that cannot be readily accessed by anyone without permission. The College provides secure, lockable cases at the front office for students to store their phones during the school day.

At Lakes Entrance Secondary College:

- Students are strongly encouraged to hand in their mobile phones at the front office **before their session one class, not during class time**
- Each class is allocated a lockable phone case to secure student phones.
- The phone cases will be stored at the General Office.
- At the end of session 5, phone cases containing phones will be returned by school staff to the classroom so students can retrieve their phones on dismissal at 3:10 pm under the supervision of school staff.

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Lakes Entrance Secondary College may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement and Bullying policies* and *Expectations Guide*.

Enforcement

At Lakes Entrance Secondary College, inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours (9 am-3:10 pm)**, unless an exception has been granted, particularly the 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 cyberbullying.
- 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, changing rooms, swimming pools and gyms.
- During exams and assessments.

Consequences will include confiscation of mobile phones, which will be stored in a lockable case and returned at the end of the day and/or suspension.

The policy means mobile phones brought to school must be switched off and stored securely in the lockable phone cases or student lockers during the school day. Students will, therefore, not be permitted to have mobile phones in classrooms or to use them during recess or lunchtime.

If a student is caught using a mobile phone at school, the following will occur:

- The mobile phone will be confiscated, placed in the lockable phone case, and returned at 3:10 pm.
- If a student's mobile phone is confiscated three or more times, they will be suspended for the following day.
- Before the student returns to school, a parent or carer must attend a meeting with a Sub-School Leader.
- If a student refuses to hand over their mobile phone, they will be suspended for the following day. Before the student returns to school, a parent or carer will need to meet with a Sub-School Leader.

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 specific learning activities (class-based exception)	Unit of work, learning sequence
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
Students on excursions and 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	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

Lakes Entrance Secondary 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
- Students who are undertaking VET

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in school newsletter
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Lakes Entrance Secondary College *Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Code of Conduct, Personal Property, Bullying etc.*
- [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	02/04/2026
Consultation	School Council on 14/11/2025, students' term 1 2026
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	14/11/2028