



Student Mobile Phone Policy

Policy Statement

The College does not allow mobile phones or other electronic devices to be accessed by students at any time while they are at the College. For the purposes of this policy, 'mobile phones' includes smart watches, other electronic communication devices, and associated listening accessories, such as, but not limited to, headphones and ear buds.

Background

The mobile phone is an effective and quick means of communication. Where unforeseen events occur, mobile phones provide students and their families with a ready means of communication. Some parents will provide their children with mobile phones for safety reasons especially while travelling long distances on school buses. However, there is a need to set a clear position on their use during the College day to avoid unnecessary interference with teaching and learning.

In normal circumstances, parents or caregivers wishing to leave messages for their children should do so by telephoning the College. Student Services staff will endeavour to ensure that messages are passed and will also assist students who need to contact family or other persons in an emergency.

Please note: the school cannot cover damage or theft to privately owned property. The school's insurance, like all government departments, is determined through the government agency Risk Cover, which does not cover individual's private property. Families are encouraged to consider portable cover/personal effects cover or single item insurance for student's mobile phones and devices used at school.

Scope

This policy applies to all students at Cape Naturaliste College.

Relevant Legislation

The Department of Education does not permit student use of mobile phones in public schools unless for medical or teacher directed educational purpose.

School Education Act 1999 - Sections 89 to 96, 223

School Education Act Regulations 2000 - Regulations 38 to 46

Procedures

- use of mobile phones is banned for all students from the time they arrive to the conclusion of the school day (“off and away all day”).
- students from Year 7 to 12 are permitted to be in possession of their mobile phone during the school day; however, mobile phones must be turned off and neither seen nor heard.
- students are required to put their smart watches in ‘aeroplane mode’ so phone calls and messages cannot be sent or received during the school day;
- students are welcome to leave their phones or electronic devices at Student Services 1 at the start of the day for safe keeping.

Policy Breaches

Any student found acting in breach of these guidelines can expect that a staff member will take possession of the mobile phone and deliver it to Student Services 1. The student will be issued a Notice of Inappropriate Mobile Phone Usage letter to be given to the parent/caregiver at the end of the day. The mobile phone will be returned when:

- **First breach:** The letter is signed by a parent/caregiver and returned to the Associate Principal, the phone will be returned to the student at the end of that day.
- **Second breach:** A parent is required to come in to the College to collect the mobile phone between the hours of 8.30 am – 3.30 pm.
- **Third breach:** The student will NOT be able to bring a mobile phone to the College. A parent is required to come into the College to collect the mobile phone between the hours of 8.30 am – 3.30 pm.

Students that repeatedly breach this policy or refuse to comply with the instruction of a staff member in relation to a mobile phone or device will face further consequences such as detention and/or loss of good standing. Any student found to use their phone to record, distribute or upload inappropriate images or videos of students, parents or staff on school premises will be suspended. (*Cape Naturaliste Good Standing Policy: Behaviour: Point 5*)

Exemptions

Applications for exemption will be subject to approval by the Principal. Possible reasons for exemption include:

- to monitor a health condition as part of a school approved documented health care plan; or
- for a particular educational purpose under the direct instruction of a teacher.

Evaluation Process

The impact of Changing Technologies and Departmental Policies will determine how we assess the effectiveness and relevance of this policy.

Approved: Leadership Group/School Board

Revised: 08 December 2023