



Policy

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Mobile & Wearable Devices

Purpose

There are endless opportunities created by technology, however, much care must be taken by users to ensure they are operated responsibly. Various research has suggested that excessive device use can have impacts on mental health and social skills.

Good Counsel College's approach to mobile and wearable devices is intended to minimise distractions and promote positive social relationships. These guidelines aim to support students to regulate their device use and aid them in understanding the costs and benefits of technology more broadly.

Expectations

- **Devices are not permitted to be used (or visible) before school from 8am, at break times, or when transitioning to or between classes. Any student in possession of a mobile device will have it confiscated and handed in to the administration office.**
- Good Counsel College encourages students to leave mobile and wearable devices at home due to their valuable nature. The college **does not** take any responsibility for lost or damaged devices.
- The college is, however, aware of the importance that such devices play in day-to-day routines, particularly for those students who travel substantial distances to and from school.
- If mobile or wearable devices are required by students for after-school use, they are encouraged to leave these at the office for the day for safe keeping.
- Parents/carers are reminded that the college administration office is the primary source to communicate with their young person. As such, parents are asked not to phone or text students during the school day, as students will not be able to respond.
- Communication between parents/carers and students should be made through the college office or via Wellbeing Leaders.
- The college acknowledges that mobile technologies and associated applications have benefits for learning. Use of such technology is at the discretion of the classroom teacher and may only be used with their permission, and for an educational purpose only.
- Camera functions on mobile devices should not be used at any time on campus, unless it is for an educational purpose and with the permission of the classroom teacher.
- Mobile devices are not permitted to be taken into examinations.

- Mobile devices are not to be used to send threatening or harassing messages to students or staff. This includes content intended to bully other students. This may include messages sent directly via a messaging app or via a social media platform, to a broader audience.
- These guidelines apply to all learning activities both onsite and offsite (e.g. excursions, camps and sporting events) unless otherwise specified.
- **A smart wearable device is any kind of electronic device that is worn on the student's person (including cellular, Wi-Fi or Bluetooth capable smart watches and headphones). The use of the smart functions of any smart wearable device is prohibited. This includes sending or receiving messages, and recording (including audio). Smart wearable devices will not be allowed into examination rooms.**

Consequences

First offence:

- Device confiscated and held at the administration office
- Student can collect the device at the end of the school day
- Lunch time detention incurred
- Email to parents/carers with notification of confiscation

Second offence:

- Device confiscated and held at the administration office
- Student can collect the device at the end of the school day
- Lunch time detention incurred
- Email to parents/carers with notification of confiscation

Third offence:

- Device confiscated and held at the administration office
- Student can collect the device at the end of the school day
- Lunch time detention incurred
- Email to parents/carers with notification of confiscation

Further offences:

After the third offence:

- Student will be required to hand the device to the administration office before school each day; and
- collect the device from the administration office at the end of each school day

This daily hand-in arrangement will remain in place for the period of the current semester.

In addition, if a student who is required to hand in their phone or mobile device and is observed using their phone at school:

- the student will be sent home and incur a 2-day suspension.

Enquiries

Enquiries about this policy must be made with the *Assistant Principal – Wellbeing*.

See Also

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

GCC Electronic Equipment Policy

CEDC Privacy Policy