

Student use of mobile phones and personal devices at Marden Senior College

Scope

This school policy is implemented in line with the Department for Education's [Student use of mobile phones and personal devices policy](#), which applies to all government schools. This document provides direction to students, staff, and families about managing personal devices that students choose to bring to school.

For the purposes of this policy, **personal devices** include mobile phones, smart watches and other digital devices that are capable of sending or receiving messages or calls and/or able to connect to the internet, and personal laptops or iPads that are not owned by the school and have not been brought to school by the student under a separate Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) agreement.

Rationale

With the widespread and increasing ownership of mobile phones and other devices among students it is critical that schools, in partnership with families, provide clear guidance for students to become informed, safe, respectful, and responsible digital citizens.

It is the Department for Education's position that access to personal devices during school hours must be managed so that students can be fully present in their learning and in their interactions with their teachers and peers.

The aim of this policy is to help promote:

- safe environments with reduced negative impacts of inappropriate use of devices at school, such as cyberbullying, exposure to harmful content, and critical incidents that involve mobile phones
- classroom environments where teachers can teach, and students can learn, free from distractions caused by personal use of devices.

Personal devices at school

Students are permitted to bring personal devices to school:

- as a measure to ensure their safety while travelling to and from school
- so that parents and part-time employers can contact them outside of school hours
- so they can be contacted about a person under their own care, where applicable
- to be used during school hours in line with this policy.

While students are at school, or attending school activities, they must comply with any reasonable directions given by school staff in line with this policy regarding their personal devices.

Mobile phones and other electronic devices are to be used in class through negotiation with staff.

At other times while attending the College, students will responsibly manage their use of personal devices in line with the [Student Code of Conduct](#). This includes communicating respectfully with others electronically and ensuring that personal use of devices does not interfere with the learning or safety of others.

Storage of personal devices at school

At times where the teacher has not given permission for students to use a mobile phone and/or electronic device during class, personal devices should be put to the side or kept in the student's bag.

Students who may need to make or take urgent personal calls during class time should do so outside of the learning area to avoid disruption to others.

During exams, students are required to hand their personal devices in for secure storage by College staff.

Responses to non-compliance

The College will implement sanctions in response to any student behaviour not in keeping with the conditions of enrolment.

Where a student's misuse of personal devices is serious, it may be necessary for the school to consider responses in line with the department's suspension, exclusion and expulsion of students procedure, or to contact South Australia Police if the behaviour is suspected to be illegal.

Roles and responsibilities

Principal

- Make sure:
 - The school's policy has been endorsed or ratified by governing council and is clearly communicated and accessible to all students, staff, and families
 - there is a process for regular review of the school's local policy
 - secure storage is provided for student personal devices that are handed in to school staff (exam protocol)
 - processes are in place for monitoring internet and school network use by all members of the school community.
- Enforce the policy and responses to instances of non-compliance.
- Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support school staff to do the same. Support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible, and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.
- Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate or illegal use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legal requirements.

School staff

- Deliver learning opportunities and maintain a safe and productive learning environment. Take steps to minimise distractions from the non-educational use of personal devices in the learning environment.
- Respond to instances of non-compliance in line with the school's policy.
- Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legal requirements.

- Make sure that any student personal devices handed in for their care are stored in a secure location and are returned to the student after the exam (per SACE exam protocol).
- Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible, and respectful use of mobile phones to their children. Use mobile phones for work-related/emergency purposes only when students are under their care.

Students

- Comply with the requirements of this policy and follow all reasonable directions from the principal and school staff.
- When using a mobile phone or personal device in line with this policy, do so in a safe, responsible, and respectful way and support peers to do the same.
- Communicate respectfully with others and do not use a mobile phone or other personal device to bully, harass, or threaten another person.
- Respect others' rights to privacy and do not take photos, film, or audio records of other people without their knowledge or permission.

Parents

- Support the school's implementation of this policy, including the consequences for non-compliance.
- Understand that the department does not provide insurance for accidental loss or damage to personal property that is brought onto school grounds (however, claims may be met under the department's public liability insurance where the loss or damage can be attributed to a negligent act or omission on the part of the school – the school will contact the department for advice if this may be the case).
- Use the school's formal communication channels to communicate with the school

Communication and review

- Policy to be presented to SGA for feedback
- Policy to be presented to Governing Council
- Policy to be uploaded onto MSC website, and reviewed annually

Questions, concerns, and further information

This policy has been implemented by the school in line with the Department for Education's 'Student use of mobile phones and personal devices policy'. You can find more information about this policy, and links to further resources for parents about personal devices and online safety, on the department's website: [Mobile phones and personal devices at school \(education.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.education.sa.gov.au/mobile-phones-and-personal-devices-at-school).

If you have any questions or concerns about the department's policy, you can contact the department at:

Email: education.customers@sa.gov.au or submit an [online feedback form](#)

Phone: Free call: 1800 088 158

Please contact the school directly to discuss any specific requirements for yourself/your child.