

Elizabeth College

Use of Mobile Phones by Students at School Policy

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1. Purpose

To provide schools with support and additional information on the requirements for implementing the Department of Education policy on the *Use of Mobile Phones by Students at School*.

2. Policy Statement

The Department of Education does not permit the use of mobile phones and accessories by students in Tasmanian Government Schools unless for the approved exemptions outlined below.

It is important to note that it is not a requirement at **Elizabeth College** for students to have a mobile phone at school. Some schools may be implementing the Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Policy and processes and this would fall under the approved exemption of direct teacher instruction.

Elizabeth College recognises that an increasing number of parents/carers who for safety, security and/or emergency purposes wish to provide their child/children with mobile phones. This policy details the restriction and management of mobile phones at **Elizabeth College**

CONDITIONS OF USE

Students at Elizabeth College are permitted to have their mobile phone in their possession during the school day. During class time or school activities phones must be placed in bags either on silent or switched off.

In some lessons, the teacher may instruct students to use their mobile phone for educational purposes. In exceptional circumstances the student may ask the teacher to use their phone and permission may be given.

Students with 'smart watches' must have them set to 'airplane mode'.

Requests for exemptions must be submitted to the **Principal** for consideration.

- For students with a reasonable adjustment to a learning program because of a disability and/or learning difficulty.
- For students with health conditions where a mobile phone is used to monitor the condition.
- For students who are young carers.
- For students experiencing extenuating circumstances other than the above, where agreed by the principal or their delegate.

3. Non-compliance with this policy

Non-compliance with this policy will be managed in accordance with the school's Respectful Student Behaviour Policy.

- Students who do not comply with this policy will be instructed to give their phone to the teacher for the duration of the lesson.
- In the case of repeated inappropriate mobile phone use by a student, the Principal, Learning Area Manager or Assistant Principal will discuss the breaches with the student and family.

4. Definitions

Mobile phone

Is a mobile device with access to a cellular (telecommunications) system, with or without a physical connection to a network. This includes smart watches, tablets, and associated listening accessories, such as, but not limited to, headphones and earbuds.

Responsibilities: Must and May

- The word 'MUST' is to be interpreted as being mandatory.
- The words 'is to' and 'are to' are to be interpreted as directory (highly recommended).
- The word 'may' is to be interpreted as being discretionary or enabling as the context requires.

School hours

Is the official start time of the school day, to the official end time of the school day.

5. Legislation

- Secretary's Instruction No 3 for Unacceptable Behaviour of Students and Volunteers at, and Visitors to, State Schools or School Activities
- Secretary's Instruction No 4 for Suspension, Exclusion, Expulsion or Prohibition of State School Students

Internal Information Only*

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