



Student Use of Mobile Phones

Padua College



Purpose:

Padua College recognises that mobile phones are an important means of communication and can be used in a variety of ways to interact. Some parents/guardians choose for their son/daughter to carry a mobile phone with them as they travel to and from school and Padua College does not wish to inhibit this practise. Whilst mobile phones can be useful, when used inappropriately they can be a significant distraction to learning and teaching and can cause unnecessary angst when used during the school day. Research supports that it is vitally important for students to have significant periods of time free of mobile phone use. Padua College has a commitment to ensuring an environment that is safe for all, and where face to face social interaction is encouraged.

Aims:

Padua College aims to connect all students to a spiritual, vibrant learning community that evolves out of the classroom. We recognise that students engage in a world rich with possibility in the digital space, and we remain committed to ensuring students are educated as to their rights and responsibilities within this space. Our focus is on developing in our students an understanding of the ways in which they can develop resilience and become innovative and responsible digital citizens. This policy has at its heart our three College expectations:

- *Do your best*
- *Help others achieve*
- *Respect environment and community*

Implementation

Padua College recognises that there are times when it is genuinely appropriate for students to use and carry a mobile phone ie: to and from school. However mobile phones are not to be used or carried during school hours whilst at school.

Mobile phone use at school can lead to issues such as:

- Distraction/disruption in class
- Social division
- Security/theft/loss/damage
- Potential for cheating
- Social media addiction
- Inappropriate photography/recording
- Harassment and bullying

It is neither necessary nor appropriate for students to have a mobile phone switched on and on their person during the school day.

Mobile phones will be confiscated by staff if seen during the school day, this includes during recess and lunch. Mobile phones are not to be brought to any class and are to remain locked in a student's locker during the course of the school day. If a staff member sees or hears a student's mobile phone the following will occur:

- **First offence:** the mobile phone will be confiscated and handed to the relevant office. The phone will be securely stored and kept until the end of the day. The student may collect their phone at the end of the day and will be reminded of College policy. Parents will be notified of the breach of the College policy.
- **Second offence:** the mobile phone will be confiscated and handed to the relevant office. The phone will be securely stored and kept until the end of the day. Parents/guardians will be notified of the breach of the College policy. The phone will be returned to the student at the end of the day but must be handed in each morning to the relevant office and collected at the end of each day for a period of a full week.
- **Third offence:** the mobile phone will be confiscated and handed to the relevant office. The phone will be securely stored and kept until the end of the day. The phone will be returned to the student at the end of the day and a meeting will be required with the student, parents and House Co-Ordinator or Student Wellbeing and Growth Coordinator. Prior to this meeting the phone will be handed in each morning to the relevant office and collected at the end of each day. After the meeting the phone will be handed in each morning to the relevant office and collected at the end of each day for a period of time as determined in the parent meeting.

The College would see multiple instances of mobile phone confiscation as demonstration of a student's inability to follow College policy and appropriate action would take place.

For matters of importance; students who need to contact their parents must do so through the office on each campus, parents who need to contact their child are reminded that this should be done via the appropriate action of contacting the school office and asking that a message be relayed.

Mobile phones will be confiscated by staff if seen during the school day, including during recess and lunch.

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