



# Balaklava High School

## Mobile Phone Policy

Balaklava High School acknowledges that mobile phones and other electronic devices (including, but not limited to, mobile phones, laptops, music players and gaming devices) serve a purpose in both personal and professional contexts. The responsible use of these devices extends beyond the school environment and is applicable at all times within the general community as the misuse of these devices can pose a threat to student safety, wellbeing and learning.

### **Rationale:**

The Mobile Phone/Electronic Devices Policy provides effective management of the learning environment. This Policy will allow students to give their full attention to their learning without the disruption of electronic devices during lesson time.

Students have the right to learn and teachers have the right to teach. As technologies rapidly change, schools must find a balance between those that give us an educational advance and those that inhibit learning. Electronic devices, other than laptops, are becoming increasingly intrusive in our classrooms without providing any educational benefit.

### **Aims:**

- To ensure student learning outcomes and achievement are our primary focus
- To safeguard and promote the wellbeing of all members of our school community

### **General Implementation:**

- Students cannot access their mobile phone during the school day (between 8.30am and 3.15pm). Access must occur after they have left the school grounds. Students cannot access their phones during break times.
- If a student chooses to bring a mobile phone to school, they must have it turned off and in their school bag or locker during the school day
- Smart Watches must have all functions disabled, other than displaying the time
- The school takes no responsibility for electronic devices and they are brought on the school grounds entirely at their owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for theft, loss, damage or health effects resulting from device use
- Parents/Caregivers who need to contact their child during the school day can do so by contacting the Front Office on 8862 0600 where a message will be taken and passed onto the student. Students are also able to contact their parents by coming to the Front Office and using our phone
- Staff are expected to refrain from using their mobile phone in class and on yard duty but may use them in the staffroom or office spaces. For safety purposes, staff should keep their mobile phone with them for use in an emergency
- If the possession and use of a mobile phone is required for a specific issue by any student, or as part of the student's NEP or Healthcare Plan, this request must be made by a parent/caregiver to the Principal in writing. The Principal reserves the right to reject such a request
- The Principal may override this policy in extreme situations such as a bushfire or other emergency and allow students to access to their mobile phones

- Mobile phones may be used for educational purposes if it is recorded in the approved Learning and Assessment Plan for that class and submitted at the beginning of the course
- The use of this Policy also covers camps and excursions. Exemptions may be approved by the Principal or Deputy/Assistant Principal if an appropriate case for usage is submitted by the teacher-in-charge
- Senior students wanting to listen to music during study periods may do so by creating a playlist and bringing it to school on a USB or using an agreed playlist created by the school and using a set of headphones connected to a laptop.

**Consequences for Policy Breaches:**

- First offence - the mobile phone or electronic device is confiscated for the day and kept in the Front Office to be collected by the student after 3.15 pm. An SMS is sent to parents/caregivers to inform them of this and that the next offence will mean a parent/caregiver must collect the device
- Subsequent offences – the mobile phone or electronic device is confiscated and an SMS is sent to the parent/caregiver to collect the device from the Front Office
- Student refusal to hand their device to a staff member when requested will result in the student being sent to CTO and following the School's behaviour procedures, which may include suspension.

*Ratified by Governing Council 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019*