



# USE OF MOBILE PHONES POLICY

## **USE OF MOBILE PHONES BY STUDENTS POLICY:**

There are several issues around mobile phones that make them inappropriate to have at school:

- Mobile phones can now be used to photograph situations in schools which can be either an invasion of privacy or be construed as cheating
- Mobile phones can now be used to film people and their activities without their knowledge and/or permission in the school grounds
- Mobile phones can often be used in class to play games, send text messages or receive messages/phone calls which naturally distract from class work.
- Mobile phones are expensive electronic devices and are subject to theft when left in bags and lockers. DEECD does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will not pay for any loss or damage to such property.

Parents are able to contact students by ringing the College office. The office staff will then immediately contact the students in any urgent situation. Students have access to school phones in an emergency.

***Students of Ararat College are not permitted to use a mobile phone during class time, unless given permission to do so by a staff member.***

***Students of Ararat College are also not permitted to use a mobile phone during school excursions, camps and extra curricula activities, unless otherwise directed by the organizing staff.***

### **Consequences:**

- If a staff member sees a mobile phone being used by a student without permission, then the phone will be confiscated by the teacher.
- If a student fails to comply with a clear and reasonable instruction from staff member by not handing over their phone when requested there may be consequences up to and including suspension from school.
- A parent/guardian will be required to collect the phone from the general office/level coordinator/Assistant Principal

Ararat College is committed to child safety (Ministerial Order No. 870) and takes all reasonable steps to ensure that the safety of our students is paramount.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in November 2015

This policy is due for review in .....

**September 2018**