



Ararat College Mobile Phone POLICY

Purpose:

To explain to our school community the Department's and Ararat College's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones [and wearable devices] during school hours. For the purpose of this policy school hours are 8:55am – 3:25pm.

Scope:

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Ararat College and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones [including wearable devices] brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

Definitions:

A **mobile phone** is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

A **wearable device** refers to wearable technology that may connect or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone.

Policy:

Ararat College understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Ararat College:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them **switched off** and securely stored during school hours (8:55am – 3:25pm).
- Wearable devices may be worn during the school day but the notifications must be switched off.
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see below for further information)
- When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office.

Personal mobile phone use:

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Ararat College during school hours, including lunchtime and recess, unless an exception has been granted. Wearable devices may be worn but notifications must be switched off.

Where a student has been granted an exception, the student must use their mobile phone for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.

Secure storage:

Mobile phones owned by students at Ararat College are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Students are encouraged not to bring a mobile phone to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that Ararat College does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft. Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items. Refer to the Ararat College's [Personal Goods Policy](#)

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Ararat College will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Ararat College students are required to store their phones inside their locked locker. All students will be provided with a locker at the start of the school year all students with a lock 20.00

Enforcement:

Students who are in breach of this policy at Ararat College will be issued with the following consequences which are consistent with our school's existing [Student Engagement Policy](#).

- 1st Offence – Phone or wearable device will be confiscated and can be collected by the student from the front office at the conclusion of the school day.
- 2nd Offence – Phone or wearable device will be confiscated and needs to be collected by a parent or guardian from the front office at the conclusion of the school day.
- 3rd Offence – Phone or wearable device will be confiscated and needs to be collected by a parent or guardian from the front office. Further consequences will result and could include but are not limited to the following:
 - Isolation from the yard during recess and/or lunch.
 - Detention
 - After school detention
 - More specific restrictions around the mobile phone and/or personal device.
 - Suspension

At Ararat College inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted, and particularly use of a mobile phone or wearable device:

- In any way that disrupts the learning of others
- To send inappropriate, harassing or threatening messages or phone calls
- To engage in inappropriate social media use including cyber bullying
- To capture video or images of people, including students, teachers and members of the school community without their permission
- To capture video or images in the school toilets, changing rooms, swimming pools and gyms
- During exams and assessments

Exceptions:

Exceptions to the policy:

- May be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically,
 - Health and wellbeing-related exceptions; and
 - Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite.
- Can be granted by the principal, in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#).

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#) are:

1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	Individual Learning Plan, Individual Education Plan. Supporting statement from Doctor or Medical Practitioner

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan Supporting statement from Doctor or Medical Practitioner
Students who are Young Carers	A localised student record Supporting statement from Doctor or Medical Practitioner

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Planning documentation
Students on excursions and camps	Planning documentation
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	Planning documentation
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel	Planning documentation

Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted.

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities:

Ararat College will provide students and their parents and carers with information about items that can or cannot be brought to camps, excursions, special activities and events, including personal mobile phones and wearable devices. This information will be provided in the documentation relating to the camp, excursion or extracurricular activity.

Exclusions:

This policy does not apply to:

- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience
- Students who are undertaking VET

Related policies and resources:

- [Personal Goods Policy](#)
- [Student Engagement Policy](#)
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Student Searches Policy](#)

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed bi-annually to remain current with the use of technology.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on 10th December 2019
This policy is due for review

December 2022