



MOBILE PHONE POLICY

PURPOSE

To enact the direction of the Department of Education and Training (DET) policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices (e.g. smartwatch, iPad) during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students at Peter Lalor Secondary College.

DEFINITIONS

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

A personal mobile device is a device that is both portable and capable of collecting, storing, transmitting or processing electronic data or images. Examples include, smartwatches and iPads.

POLICY

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

At Peter Lalor Secondary College:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours, including recess and lunch breaks.
- Students who choose to bring other personal mobile devices to school must have the notifications 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 DET's [Mobile Phones Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Peter Lalor Secondary College during school hours, including lunchtime and recess, unless an exception has been granted.

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 Peter Lalor Secondary 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 Peter Lalor Secondary 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 Peter Lalor Secondary College's Personal Property Policy and the DET's [Personal Goods policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Peter Lalor Secondary College will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Peter Lalor Secondary College students are required to store their phones in a mobile phone locker located in the classroom.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones or other personal mobile devices inappropriately at Peter Lalor Secondary College will have their phone and/or device confiscated and stored securely at the front office. A parent/carer will be contacted to collect the phone and/or device during school office hours.

Consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies e.g. Student Wellbeing and Engagement will be enforced in the following situations:

- A student repeatedly using their personal mobile phone and/or personal mobile device inappropriately
- A student refusing to hand their phone and/or personal mobile device to a staff member if they are found to be using their mobile phone during school hours.

At Peter Lalor Secondary College inappropriate use of mobile phones and personal mobile devices is any use during school hours, unless an exception has been granted, and particularly use of a mobile phone:

- 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
- any other manner deemed inappropriate by the Principal

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 DET's [Mobile Phones Policy](#).

Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted. Should a student with an exception use their phone in a manner deemed inappropriate their exemption may be revoked.

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Peter Lalor Secondary 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.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement
- Personal Property
- Bullying Prevention
- Digital Technologies
- Mobile Phones – DET Policy

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on 23/10/2019 and is scheduled for review on 10/2022.