

Ballajura Community College Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy



Rationale

Ballajura Community College is, and will continue to be, committed to the education of our students, staff and our college community in the responsible and acceptable use of mobile phones and electronic devices. Under direction from the Government of Western Australia and the Department of Education, the student mobile phones in public schools policy states that *'The Department of Education does not permit student use of mobile phones in public schools unless for medical or teacher directed educational purpose'*.

Minimising the use of mobile phones and electronic devices, when not in direct support of education, will ensure that Ballajura Community College can provide a safe and productive learning environment for students in our care. Limiting the use of mobile phones will allow students to better engage with their learning and with their peers, without the pressure felt when needing to respond to a mobile phone.

Policy

The use of mobile phones and electronic devices will be banned for all students from the time they arrive at school, until 2:55pm, including recess and lunch breaks. Mobile phones and electronic devices should be **'off and away all day'** unless the student has been granted an exemption for the following uses of mobile phones:

- to monitor a health condition as part of an College approved documented plan; or
- for a particular educational purpose under the direct instruction of a teacher or
- with permission of a teacher for a specified purpose.

Guidance

- For the purposes of this policy, 'mobile phones and electronic devices' includes smart watches, other electronic communication devices, and associated listening accessories, including headphones and ear buds.
- **'Off and away all day'** refers to the time a student arrives at school to the end of the school day and break times.
- All communication between parents/guardians and students, during school hours, should occur via the administration offices.

Breaches

- students refusing to follow teacher requests to put their mobile phone or electronic device away, or hand over their device if already warned, will be sanctioned as per the College's Positive Student Behaviour Support Policy
- refusal to follow instructions, or misuse of phones (e.g., inappropriate content, texting, filming, distribution etc.) may result in the mobile phone or electronic device being confiscated. If confiscated, parents will be called and requested to collect the confiscated device/s from the Main Administration office.
- students are not permitted to record or photograph staff or students under any circumstance.
- any student found to be using a mobile phone or electronic device to record an incident which breaches expected College behaviour (for example fighting) will be sanctioned according to the College's Positive Student Behaviour Support Policy. This could include confiscation, loss of Good Standing and/or suspension.
- students cannot engage in any form of online sexual harassment or cyberbullying. It is a criminal offence to use a device to menace, harass or offend another person and as such, legal ramifications may apply where a student breaches the mobile electronic device policy.