



Student Mobile Phone Policy

1. Purpose

To explain to the school community the requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones/smart watches during school hours.

2. Scope of application

This policy applies to all students at Red Rock Christian College and students' personal mobile phones/smart watches on school premises during school hours, including recess and lunch, and while attending and participating in school-related events, including after-hours and offsite. Students using their mobile phones travelling to and from school are expected to comply with the college's behaviour and acceptable use standards.

This policy does not apply to the following:

- Students undertaking workplace learning activities.
- Students attending off-site VET subjects. (it applies to onsite VET subjects).

3. Interpretation

Within this policy, unless specifically defined otherwise, the following terms shall have these meanings:

<i>Parent</i>	shall also mean step-parent, caregiver or guardian
<i>College</i>	shall mean Red Rock Christian College (RRCC)
<i>Mobile Phone</i>	A mobile phone/smartwatch is a telephone/device with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

4. Rationale

At our Christ-centred school, we prioritise our students' holistic wellbeing and development. To foster a positive learning environment and support the safety and success of our students, we have established a **no-mobile** phone use policy during school hours and at school events. This decision is based on the following considerations:

Wellbeing: Research shows that excessive mobile phone use can negatively impact mental and emotional health, particularly among young people and has an addictive effect on many people. By limiting access to mobile phones during school hours and at school events, we aim to reduce anxiety, stress and the potential for cyberbullying, thereby promoting a healthier and more focused school experience.

Academic: Research also indicates that mobile phone use in school can negatively impact students' learning outcomes. Notifications, social media, and games can easily divert attention away from



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learning. By eliminating mobile phone use, we aim to create a more focused and productive educational environment where students can engage with their studies.

Increased Risk: Mobile phones can inadvertently increase the risk of inappropriate content sharing, Cyberbullying and breaches of privacy. Without the presence of phones, these risks are significantly reduced, allowing us to maintain a safer and more respectful school environment in line with our Christian values.

Social Connections: School is not only a place for academic learning but also for developing social skills and creating friendships. Face-to-face interactions with peers and teachers are vital for building meaningful relationships and fostering a sense of community. By removing the distraction of phones, we encourage students to engage more fully with those around them.

5. Policy

Red Rock Christian College recognises that students will bring mobile phones to school. As such RRCC has the following expectations:

- Students will switch off or put their phones on silent and store them securely in their lockers upon arrival at school.
- Students must not use a smartwatch or other device to send/receive messages or record staff or students during school hours or in attendance at school events and activities.
- Students may not retrieve or use their mobile phones until they have left the college grounds unless an exception has been granted.
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain circumstances have been met (see 5.4 for exceptions).
- The college will convey a message to a student on behalf of a parent or carer in an emergency only.

5.1 Personal mobile phone use

Personal mobile phones must not be used at Red Rock Christian College during school hours, including lunchtime and recess, unless an exception has been granted.

Where an exception has been granted, the student must use their phone for the purpose for which the exception was granted and in compliance with the college's acceptable use standards outlined in Policy 6.13 Information and Communication. Unacceptable use includes the following:

- sending inappropriate, harassing or threatening messages or phone calls
- disrupting the learning of others
- engaging in inappropriate social media use, including cyberbullying
- capturing voice records, video or images of other students or staff in the school toilets, changing rooms, gym, classroom and school grounds regardless of permission being granted.
- during exams and assessments



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Breaches of this policy will be met with consequences, including loss of use of devices, suspension, expulsion, police involvement or legal action as appropriate to the breach.

- Note: It is a criminal offence to use our Personal Digital Devices, including mobile phones, to menace, harass, or offend another person, and almost all calls, messages, emails, and social media activity can be traced.

5.2 Secure storage

Mobile phones owned by students are personal items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Red Rock Christian College does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft. Students and their parents are, therefore, encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items.

When a student brings a mobile phone to school, it must be placed in their locker on arrival. The mobile phone must not be used or removed from their locker prior to the end of scheduled classes or on-site activities during the school day. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure their locker is always secure. This includes not providing access to their locker or lock combination to others.

5.3 Enforcement

If a student is found in possession of a mobile phone, in breach of this policy, they will be instructed to take the phone to the Administration Office immediately and to return to the teacher with a verification of check-in receipt. At the end of the school day, 3:15 pm, they may retrieve the phone from the Administration Office.

If a student does not comply, the staff member will confiscate the phone, and the parents will be notified and will need to make arrangements to collect it. If a student refuses to handover the phone to the teacher, the Head of School will respond.

If students breach the policy twice in a year, the parents will be notified and will be expected to retrieve the phone from the office.

Procedure for annual confiscation

1. Confiscation
 - a. Classroom confiscation – The student takes the phone to the office and returns a check-in receipt to the teacher.
 - b. Outside of class confiscation – teacher walks student to the office to observe handover
2. Compass notification
 - a. Office staff complete compass notification – General Confiscation
 - b. 1st confiscation – student collects at the end of the day
 - c. 2nd confiscation – parents collect from the office
 - d. 3rd confiscation – parents collect from the office
 - e. 4th confiscation – behaviour plan – Head of School



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5.4 Exceptions

The principal or Heads of Schools will grant exceptions to this policy. Exceptions may be granted if certain conditions are met, specifically:

- Health-related issues (Medical evidence required)
- Related to managing risk when students are offsite (determined by the college).
- Notebook computers and all other personal devices such as iPads (Students are expected to turn off notifications and messaging applications).

Learning-related exceptions

Specific exceptions	Documentation
For specific learning activities that cannot be undertaken with a computer or by other means.	Approval of supervising teacher.
Where it is part of a reasonable adjustment to a learning program because of a disability or learning difficulty.	Individual growth plan – Head of School Approval.

Health and wellbeing exceptions

Specific exceptions	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Medical documentation. Part of learning plan

Managing risk when students are off-site

Specific exceptions	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions unaccompanied.	Approval of supervising teacher
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised (city week).	Parent approval and approval of supervising teacher.

Other

Specific exceptions	Documentation
Purchasing from the Canteen	A phone can be used for purchases at the canteen but must immediately be securely stored. Phones seen apart from purchasing will be confiscated.



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Where exceptions are granted, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted.

5.4 Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities.

This policy applies to all school-related activities, both onsite and offsite.

Review

The policy will be reviewed every two years. Review will be conducted by the responsible officer, drawing upon input and feedback from:

- School Leadership
- Staff
- External changes, such as changes to legislation, good practice

Policy Information

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2 September 2024	Original policy