

MOBILE PHONES AND OTHER PERIPHERAL DEVICES, USE BY STUDENTS POLICY



Charles La Trobe P-12 College takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and is fully committed to ensuring that its strategies, policies, procedures and practices meet all **Child Safety Standards as specified in Ministerial Order No. 870 (2015)**.

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Charles La Trobe College's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones - and other personal mobile devices, including ear-pods, smart watches, etc. - during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Charles La Trobe P-12 College and Olympic Village Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile 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. For the purpose of this policy, "mobile phone" also refers to mobile phones and any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watches.

POLICY

Charles La Trobe P-12 College understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Charles La Trobe P-12 College:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours
- 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.

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PERSONAL MOBILE PHONE USE

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Charles La Trobe P-12 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 Charles La Trobe P-12 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 Charles La Trobe P-12 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.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Charles La Trobe P-12 College will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Charles La Trobe P-12 College secondary school students are required to store their phones either in their lockers or hand them into the school administration office to be placed in a lockable cupboard. Primary school students are required to ...

ENFORCEMENT

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Charles La Trobe P-12 College may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies including our Student Behaviour Management Response Matrix, and our *Student Wellbeing and Engagement*, and *Preventing Bullying* policies.

At Charles La Trobe P-12 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:

- that in any way 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, staff and members of the school community without their permission
- to capture video or images in the school toilets, changing rooms, 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.

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- can be granted by the principal, or by the teacher for that class, in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#).

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

1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)	Unit of work, learning sequence approved by school leadership
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

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan
Students who are Young Carers	A localised student record

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

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

Charles La Trobe P-12 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.

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EXCLUSIONS

This policy does not apply to:

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- iPads, approved tablets, laptops, netbooks and chrome-books
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience
- Students who are undertaking VET

Related policies and resources

- CLT Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy
- CLT Student Behaviour Response Matrix
- [Weapons — Banning, Searching and Seizing Harmful Items](#)
- [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)
- [DET Advice to Parents on Mobile Phones in Schools](#)

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET update late October 2019).

RATIFICATION

The College Council ratified this policy on 29 October, 2020

REVIEW

This policy is due for review October 2023.

REFERENCE

<https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edrms/keyprocess/cp/SitePages/SchoolPoliciesDetail.aspx?CId=79>