

Murrayville Community College Mobile Phone Policy

Rationale

Mobile phones are a modern communication tool used prolifically by adults and teenagers and are beginning to be used by pre-teens.

Parents are ultimately responsible for decisions related to:

- when a student is given / allowed to purchase a mobile phone
- what content a student is able to access on their mobile phone
- where a student can take a mobile phone.

MCC acknowledges that mobile phones are computers. When used properly, mobile phones can assist and enhance learning and can be an efficient way for students to take, share and publish photos and videos, access organisational tools such as Google Classroom or to complete other tasks. Mobile phones can also increase students' safety (eg Ag, pool, oval, excursions & camps).

MCC acknowledges that some students travel for long distances and durations on school buses to and from school and a mobile phone is a source of entertainment in some instances.

MCC acknowledges that when mobile phones are misused, there is a potential for distraction and even harm to occur to students.

MCC acknowledges that in a P-12 setting there is a wide variation in the students' maturity and capacity to be self-regulating and responsible users, therefore different rules must apply for different age groups.

Aims

- To teach students to become safe, responsible and self-regulating users of mobile phones.
- To assist and enhance learning through technology.
- To prevent distraction from learning.
- To prevent a lack of or a reduced degree of socialisation between students.
- To prevent students accessing inappropriate or age-inappropriate content.
- To ensure student safety and prevent cyberbullying.

Implementation

Staff

1. Staff who bring a mobile phone to school do so at their own risk, it is the individual's responsibility to keep them safe. The school does not accept responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged phones.
2. Staff phones should be on silent at all times other than when alternative arrangements have been made with the Principal.

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All Students

1. Students who bring a mobile phone to school do so at their own risk, it is the individual's responsibility to keep them safe. The school does not accept responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged phones.
2. Students' phones should be on silent with vibration mode turned off at all times.
3. Student phones should remain out of sight (pocket, pencil case, bag, locker, etc) during class time, except for when a teacher has given permission for their use or directed students to access them.
4. Mobile phones are not to be used to listen to personal music through headphones during class time or break times, unless listening to personal music through headphones is a 'reasonable adjustment' for a student with a disability. In this case a request must be documented by a combination of the class teacher / parent / Principal or Leading teacher.
5. Mobile phones are not to be used at school to access or post to social media (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat – this list is not exhaustive). (Senior students refer to point 1. under **10-12.**)
6. Mobile phones are not to be used at school to stream video content (eg Netflix, STAN, YouTube) other than that which has been directed by a teacher (eg Edrolo)
7. Mobile phones are not permitted in exams or tests.
8. No photos are to be taken inside change rooms or toilets.
9. The sending of offensive or inappropriate material or texts will not be tolerated.
10. Student phone numbers must be provided to the front office and updated at the start of each school year and prior to camps and excursions. Camp and excursion staff will be provided with student phone numbers.
11. On the school bus, to and from school, students may use their mobile phone to listen to personal music, access social media, stream content, use apps or play games. However, all students need to ensure that younger students are not exposed to any age-inappropriate content.
12. Having a mobile phone at school is a privilege. Abuse of this privilege will result in consequences (including, but not limited to, confiscation) at the school's discretion.

P-4

1. Students in Prep to Year 4 are strongly discouraged from bringing a mobile phone to school or on camps and excursions.
2. Phones may be taken on camps and excursions with parent permission for use as a camera only. (Students may not use a phone for communication, personal music and games.) Phones must be in flight mode or have the SIM card removed, and handed to staff / put away when requested (this may include overnight).
3. Parents of P-4 students who wish to send a mobile phone to school with their child, must contact the classroom teacher in regard to its storage during the school day.
4. All parent contact and emergency calls are to be made through the front office.

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5-9

1. Students in Years 5 and 6 are required to store their mobile phone in their bag or in their personal tray during the school day.
2. Students in 5-9 may bring one mobile phone on a camp or excursion. They are to be switched to silent and remain out of sight (other than when being used as a camera) during educational visits and handed to staff / put away when requested (this may include overnight).
3. All parent contact and emergency calls are to be made through the front office.

10-12

1. Senior students are active members of our community, they work, and are part of sports teams and community groups. Many of these groups use Facebook or Messenger groups to communicate. Senior students may only access their Facebook, Messenger etc. in morning form assembly (8.55-9.00am) and during the first 5 minutes of afternoon form (2.00-2.05pm).
2. Senior students may initiate parent contact via their mobile phone, however students need to inform front office staff if they are leaving for the day and must be signed out.

Evaluation

When First Approved: 21st May 2007

When Reviewed / Modified: 17th September 2018