

Hastings Secondary College Mobile Phone Proposal 2021

Current Policy

Mobile Phone and Social Media 7-12

June 2019

- **The College allows the possession of mobile phones and other electronic devices at each campus, on the condition that they are *used appropriately by students.***

What We know

The majority of our students are online, and the vast majority access the internet on their mobile device, making it the most common medium for **cyber bullying**. At Our College;

- Mobile phones continue to disrupt the learning environment
- Rates of bullying, intimidating, or otherwise harassing others through text messaging, or through photographic, video, or other data transfer system available on the phone has not reduced enough since implementing the revised policy in 2019

2016 Deloitte Mobile Consumer Survey

This survey reflects what we see throughout the College

Australia has one of the highest global smartphone penetration levels.

9/10 Australian teenagers (14-17yrs) have a mobile phone.

“Australians’ mobile phone addiction is worsening, and alarmingly it is increasingly affecting sleep, wellbeing and relationships,”

Cyberbullying continues to be a concern

What we see;

- receiving intentionally hurtful text messages, emails or direct messages on social media sites
- people spreading rumours or lies about someone online
- people sending images or videos intended to humiliate or embarrass someone
- people sending threats to someone
- people setting up and using fake online profiles to embarrass or intimidate someone.

Why Review the 2019 Policy?

We always said we would.

Data has indicated that despite the extensive efforts in consultation with students, staff and parents in the revision of this policy (June 2019), that mobile phones remain an issue in regards to detracting from student engagement in both academic and social aspects of school, particularly for our Year 7 to 10 students.

Proposal for 2021

Ban Mobile phones Yrs 7-10 with the possibility of Yrs 11 and 12

From Term 1, 2021 there will be a new mobile phone policy.

The policy means phones brought to school must be switched off and stored securely in a YONDR pouch.

The aim of this policy is to provide:

1. A safe environment to learn without inappropriate mobile phone use (including cyberbullying) or distractions
2. Greater opportunities for social interaction and physical activity during recess and lunchtimes.

2021 Policy

Emergencies

In emergencies, parents can contact their children through the school office.

Exceptions*

A small number of exceptions will be made. These exceptions will only be available if a mobile phone is essential for a student in:

managing a health condition

classroom learning.

Teachers can grant a classroom-based learning exception.

Family Support

Talking about mobile phone use as a family is a great way to support safe and responsible technology use.

[The eSafety Commissioner](#) has many resources for families:

[7 Tips for Managing Screen Time](#) – tips and advice on how families can balance their time on and offline

[Online Safety: A guide for parents and carers](#) – guide to how to tackle the big online issues

[Screen Smart Parent Tour](#) – advice on social media, screen time, personal information, cyber-bullying, stranger contact and inappropriate content.

The Department of Education and Training's also has a [Bully Stoppers](#) webpage.

Further Data

Cognition and smartphone use

[Smartphones and Cognition: A Review of Research Exploring the Links between Mobile Technology Habits and Cognitive Functioning](#) is a review of academic research on mobile phones. The review looked for evidence of effects of smartphone use on cognition. It reported that habitual smartphone use may have a negative and lasting impact on users' ability to :

think,

remember,

pay attention,

regulate emotion.

[The Mere Presence of Your Smartphone Reduces Brain Power, Study Shows](#)

The research finds it doesn't matter whether a smartphone is on or off or lying face up or face down on a desk - having a smartphone within sight or within easy reach reduces a person's ability to focus and perform tasks, because part of their brain is actively working to not pick up or use the phone.