



MOBILE PHONE

Policy 2020

RATIONALE:

Baden Powell College recognises that there are times when it is genuinely appropriate and useful for students to have access to a mobile phone - when travelling to and from school to contact parents in emergencies, to confirm or change collection times related to after school arrangements. Mobile phones are important modern day communication tools essential in providing a safe and effective school environment. However, they can easily be misused, lost or damaged and must therefore be effectively managed.

From term 1 2020 the Minister of Education placed guidelines on all Victorian Government Schools that students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours. The Ministerial Policy will be followed at Baden Powell College.

AIMS:

- To manage the safe use and storage of mobile phones by students and staff at Baden Powell College.
- To ensure a safe environment to learn without inappropriate mobile phone use (including cyberbullying) or distractions
- To provide greater opportunities for social interaction and physical activity during recess and lunchtimes

IMPLEMENTATION:

The responsibilities of the school relating to mobile phones include :

- The college will purchase and maintain enough mobile phones and service contracts to satisfy its needs.
- Students misusing personal mobile phones at school or causing a nuisance will be brought to the attention of the Principal. Further to investigation the school will implement consequences as required for individuals involved in accordance with the discipline policy.
- Mobile phones which use the facilities of video and /or camera are strictly prohibited in the college grounds and classrooms.
- Mobile phones brought to school by students and staff are brought to school at their own risk and not covered under the schools insurance policy.
- Baden Powell College does not accept responsibility for lost or damaged mobile phones.
- Baden Powell College will provide a secure place for students to hand in their phones to.

The responsibilities of staff relating to mobile phones include:

- Personal mobile phones owned by staff must be turned off during face to face teaching time and meetings.
- If it is essential that a staff member has their phone on them during face to face teaching they must communicate this with a member of the Principal class team to obtain permission.
- Teachers in charge of all excursions and trips involving students must ensure a mobile phone is taken on each trip.
- Staff returning the school mobile phone must ensure they are recharged.
- School mobile phone is not to be used by staff for private calls.

The responsibilities of students relating to mobile phones include:

- Students are not to use mobile phones without permission directly from the teacher in charge.
- For students in years Prep to Four, they are discouraged from bringing their phones to school. If it is essential to have a phone, they must hand them over to the office staff upon arriving and collect at home time.
- For students in years Five to Nine mobile phones must be secured in a locker for the whole school day. Students will be issued a key to secure their phone in the locker. A charge will be issued if the key is lost or misplaced.
- Any student found in possession of a mobile phone during the school day will have it confiscated and the phone will be returned at the end of the day and parents notified.

EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.