



## BORONIA K-12 COLLEGE: MOBILE PHONE POLICY

### Rationale:

- Boronia K-12 College recognises that many students now feel the need to carry a mobile phone and accepts that there are genuine reasons for their use – for example to contact parents after sport practice, a part-time job after school or in emergencies.
- As a learning community, the use of mobile phones and similar electronic devices can be disruptive to the learning environment and we do need rules to govern their use during school hours. We also acknowledge that mobile phones / electronic communication devices can be used for valid educational purposes as long as guidelines for safe and acceptable use are in place.
- Mobile phones and other electronic devices can easily be improperly used, lost or damaged and must therefore be effectively managed.

### Aims:

- To utilise the benefits of mobile phones whilst managing the problems they can potentially cause.

### Implementation:

- If mobile phones are brought to school they are to be used only outside school hours and at their owner's risk (exception- see dot point 4)
- The College will not accept any responsibility for theft, loss or damage or health effects (potential or actual) resulting from mobile phone use
- Parents and students should ensure that phones (and/or electronic devices) are properly and adequately insured as personal property
- Mobile phones must be **turned off and locked in the student's locker at the start of the school day and not accessed until the final bell** unless permission has been given by a child's teacher for a specific educational purpose in a specific class for a specified period of time. Any unacceptable use of the mobile phone (or similar electronic device) under these special circumstances will mean the loss of this privilege for the students involved
- Mobile phones must not be taken into any examination room or test, in line with Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority policy
- Students must not use a mobile or an electronic device to take images or record conversations of other students or staff without written consent

- Use of mobile phones during excursions and on camp is to be determined by the classroom teacher / teacher in charge of the excursion or camp, in accordance with the guidelines for safe and acceptable use as outlined in this document
  - Students who become unwell during the day must not use their mobile phone to contact their parent / guardian to collect them. Students must follow the normal procedure of visiting sick bay and/or talking to the Assistant Principal / Class, Pod or Mentor Teacher who will make the necessary arrangements in conjunction with the General Office
  - Students engaged in the inappropriate use of mobile phones /electronic devices including but not restricted to bullying or harassing others through SMS, voice or picture will receive immediate consequences, increasing in severity depending on nature of the offense
  - Senior students (Years 10-12) may utilise their phones in some subjects to complete learning/curriculum tasks. This must be done in accordance with the guideline for safe and acceptable use, as outlined in this document
- Non-observance or breaches of this policy may result in the student's mobile phone being confiscated for the remainder of that school day, kept in a safe place for collection by the student after the final bell. The school will take all due care and consideration but ultimately takes no responsibility for damage to or loss of the mobile phone.
  - If the student refuses to hand over their phone or is rude / uncooperative towards the teacher confiscating the phone that child's parents will be notified and further consequences discussed (e.g. phone handed into the General Office each morning and collected in the afternoon for a week)
  - If a student's mobile phone is confiscated more than twice in a school term because of inappropriate use / use during the school day, the phone will need to be collected from an Assistant Principal by the parent/ guardian of the student.
  - Repeated breaches of this policy may lead to suspension from school.
  - Inappropriate or unacceptable use of mobile phones causing harm or distress to other members of the school community will lead to severe consequence including possible suspension.

**Evaluation:**

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