



# Mobile Phones – Student Use Policy

## Purpose

To explain to our school community the Department's and John Fawkner College's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices during school hours.

## Scope

This policy applies to:

1. All students at John Fawkner College 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" 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

John Fawkner College understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At John Fawkner 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.

### Personal mobile phone use

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at John Fawkner 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 John Fawkner 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 John Fawkner 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 and asked to refer to the Department's [Personal Goods policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, students are required to store them in their lockers. John Fawkner College will only provide secure storage for confiscated devices.

### Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at John Fawkner College may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policy - see *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and/or *Code of Conduct* or *Bullying Prevention* policies. In practice, the following will occur:

1<sup>st</sup> Instance – student is required to hand over the phone and it is placed into secure storage at the front office. The student may collect the phone from a Principal Class member at the end of the School day.

2<sup>nd</sup> Instance – student is required to hand over the phone and it is placed into secure storage at the front office. The parent is required to collect the phone and an afterschool detention is issued.

Ongoing instances and continuous refusal to comply with the policy – parent meetings will be held to discuss further consequences including but not limited to suspension.

If student refuses to hand over a mobile phone to a classroom teacher, the student is to be immediately referred to the Sub School.

At John Fawkner 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:

- in any way that 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, teachers and members of the school community without their permission

- to capture video or images in the school toilets, changing rooms, swimming pools and gyms
- during exams and assessments
- to communicate with other mobile phone devices or social media

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

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

#### *1. Learning-related exceptions*

Specific exception	Documentation
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)	Approved Unit of work, scope and sequence
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

John Fawkner 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.

### Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Specific out-of-school-hours events as communicated or approved by the College
- Travelling to and from school
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience
- Students who are undertaking VET

### **Related Policies and Resources**

- JFC Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- JFC Child Safe Policy
- JFC Code of Conduct
- JFC Bullying Prevention Policy
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed by the Governance Committee and School Council Team every 4 years.

### **Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Date	Description of update	To be reviewed	Approved by
15 October 2019	Initial publication	15 October 2020	S.Council 14/11/19
<i>19 November 2020</i>	<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>19 November 2021</i>	<i>Governance 26/11/20</i>
<i>13 March 2024</i>	<i>Review</i>	<i>13 March 2025</i>	<i>Governance</i>