

Living Waters Lutheran College

MOBILE PHONE POLICY



Mobile phones are not permitted to be used on campus during normal school hours.

The College recognises that there are times when it is genuinely appropriate and useful for students to have access to a mobile phone – for example, to contact parents in emergencies, on the way to and from school, and to confirm or change a collection time after an extra-curricular activity. It is not necessary or acceptable however, for mobile phones to be switched on or used at any other time during the school day. College staff reserve the right to confiscate mobile phones if they are being used during these times – it is then the responsibility of the parent/caregivers(s) to collect the confiscated phone from the student’s relevant Head of School.

A student, who is feeling unwell at school and needs to go home, must arrange this through Student Services and / or the College nurse. Under no circumstances may students use mobile phones to contact home and make arrangements to leave except through the Student Services or Head of School.

The following rules apply with respect to mobile phones:

1. Mobile phones must be switched off during all school hours even when they are stored in a locker or bag. They should not be used in any manner or place that is disruptive to the normal routines of the College or to other people. Usage includes the sending and receiving of text messages or data.
2. Students will generally not be allowed to use mobile phones during field trips, excursions or other off-campus supervised activities unless otherwise approved by the Principal. If use of a mobile phone at such events is deemed necessary, then parents and students will be informed prior and a usage agreement will be issued. Arrangements in both circumstances will be in place for communication with staff members in the case of an emergency.
3. Mobile phones brought to and kept at school are entirely at their owner’s risk. The College cannot accept any responsibility for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) resulting from mobile phone use. Students and parents should recognise that mobile phones are a highly prized target for theft and, accordingly, phones should always be stored in a safe and secure place.
4. Parents and students should ensure that such phones are properly and adequately insured as personal property.
5. Courtesy, consideration of and respect for others are paramount at all times.
6. Non-observance or breaches of these rules may result in the mobile phone being confiscated and privileges restricted or withdrawn. If the mobile phone is confiscated, it will need to be collected from Student Services by the parent/guardian of the student.

As mobile phones are often used as a personal computer device the College policy on *Acceptable Computer and Internet Use* (See the College Diary) will apply to such mobile phone technologies. However, this does not, of course, apply to use at home. Parents are urged to be aware of their son/daughter's mobile use and to determine whether it is acceptable – to them as parents/caregivers and by law.

When using mobile phones, it is **NOT** acceptable to:

- Threaten other students
- Use swearing and foul language
- Use defamatory statements
- Spread rumours about other people
- Use racist comments

Some of these behaviours are punishable by law based on the *Telecommunications Act*. Some infringements of this Act carry a jail term. The College may refer serious incidents onto the police. Inappropriate use of text messaging on mobile phones at schools is against the terms of the College's Anti-Harassment Policy (also signed by students and parents in the College diary).

The internet is an extremely beneficial resource to students when used correctly, i.e. for assignment research, information gathering and friendly chats. Similarly, mobile phones are a convenience and allow a degree of safety. However, without close supervision or outlining of rules, the internet and mobile phones can easily be misused.

We at the College encourage parents to discuss with their children, correct use of the internet and mobile phones and agree on what is appropriate. If you or your child suspect or are aware of any misuse of the internet/e-mail or mobile phones as it pertains to the College, it is imperative that you contact the College so that it may be appropriately addressed.

Parents and students seeking advice regarding this issue may wish to contact the College.