

# Year 7-12 Student Mobile Phone and Personal Devices Policy

At Avenues College we believe that all staff, students, and visitors have the right to a safe, in an inclusive and supportive learning environment. We foster positive relationships and partnerships that complement our college values of *Courage, Creativity, Resilience and Respect*.

## Purpose

This policy provides direction to students, staff, and families about managing mobile phones and personal devices. The devices covered by this policy include, but are not limited to:

- mobile phones and smart phones
- smart watches
- earphones
- iPads and tablets or laptops that are not part of a separate Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) arrangement
- other digital devices with capability of connecting to a cellular communication network, the internet or both.

This policy applies while students are at the College or attending an authorised school activity such as an excursion, during school hours.

## College staff will:

- deliver learning opportunities and maintain a safe and productive learning environment
- take steps to minimise distractions from the non-educational use of mobile phones or personal devices in the learning environment. They will do this by:
  - responding to instances of non-compliance in line with this policy, the College's B-12 Bullying Prevention policy and Learning Technologies policy
  - report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of mobile phones or personal devices in line with department policy and procedure and any legislative requirements
  - ensure that mobile phones or personal devices (including earphones) are turned off and stored securely either in student bags or lockers at the start of the College day and not taken out for use during any lessons
  - ensure that student mobile phones or personal devices handed in for their care are stored in a secure location and returned to the student (or their parent/caregiver/guardian)
  - communicate with the parent/caregiver/guardian about appropriate use in the classroom as expected
  - model appropriate use of mobile phones or personal devices (including earphones).

The College recognises the important role parents/caregivers/guardians play in supporting their child to use their mobile phone (or other personal device) in a safe, responsible, and respectful way.

## Parents/caregivers/guardians will:

- support the implementation of the College's mobile phone policy, including consequences for non-compliance with the policy
- use the College's formal communication channels in all instances to communicate with the College by contacting Reception or the Wellbeing Centre (Student Services), including where a student requires early collection from the College. Messages will be passed on to the student
- not phone or send text messages to your son/daughter during the times that they are in Care Group or lessons.

## Mobile phones or personal devices at school

Avenues College acknowledges that there are legitimate reasons for students to bring a mobile phone or personal device to school:

- to ensure their safety while travelling
- so that parents/caregivers/guardians can contact them outside of school hours.

The use of mobile phones or personal devices (including earphones) during Care Group and lesson times is not in keeping with the College's core value of *Respect* as it is disrespectful to the teacher who is teaching and disrespectful to the other students and their learning.

### Students will:

- comply with the requirements of the College's policy and follow all reasonable directions from staff
- if permitted to use a mobile phone or personal device during Care Group or lesson, do so in a safe, responsible, and respectful way and support their peers to do the same.
- communicate respectfully with others at all times and are not to use a mobile phone or personal device to bully, harass or threaten another person
- accept sole responsibility for the care of their mobile phones or personal devices (including earphones) if they choose to bring them to school.

Students are able to access their mobile phones or personal devices at recess and lunchtimes, before and after school only. The College does not take responsibility for accidental loss, theft or damage to the mobile phone or personal device.

## Using a mobile phone or personal device for a learning activity

**Teachers may request the use of mobile phones or personal devices to complete specific tasks related to student learning during class time.**

Personal devices can be effective learning tools when used with appropriate Teacher guidance. There are many established uses for mobile technologies in the learning environment, including:

- educational apps and games
- advanced camera functionality
- strong applications for coding and robotics subjects.

## Storage of mobile phones and personal devices

Mobile phones or personal devices (including earphones) **are not permitted** to be used in the classroom and must be turned off and stored securely either in:

- student bags or locker at the start of the College day and not taken out for use during any lessons.
- a secure location provided by the teacher at the beginning of each lesson.

## Misuse of mobile phones or personal devices at school

Consequences of mobile phone or personal device (including earphones) use without Teacher permission, during the school day include having the device confiscated and stored by the Teacher, a member of the Leadership team, or in The Wellbeing Centre (Student Services) until the end of the day.

Photos and/or videos are not to be taken of other students or staff members without their permission. It is a criminal offence to use mobile phones or personal devices to offend, harass or bully another person.

For ongoing instances, the **Avenues College Positive Behaviours Policy** will be implemented, and this could result in suspension of the student for not following reasonable expectations.

**Please note:** Mobile phones and/or personal devices will be confiscated and SAPOL will be contacted when there is a suspected case of crime involving electronic evidence (e-crime) that involves these devices being used to commit an offence, is targeted in an offence, or acts as a storage device in an offence.

Offences which are crimes include:

- child exploitation via child pornography or sexually explicit photographs
- impersonation
- unlawful threats
- transmitting suicide-related material/images
- stalking
- blackmail
- racial vilification
- filming a fight or physical act of violence.

## Further information

The following supporting documents can be found on the Avenues College website: [www.avenuescollege.sa.edu.au/](http://www.avenuescollege.sa.edu.au/)

- Department for Education Behaviour Support policy
- Avenues College Positive Behaviours policy and Student Positive Behaviour Code of Conduct
- Avenues College Bullying Prevention policy
- Avenues College Complaints policy
- Avenues College B-12 Learning Technologies policy
- **Cyber-safety, Keeping Children Safe in a Connected World** – Guidelines for Schools and Pre-Schools and **Bullying Prevention Strategy: A Community Approach** CONNECTED - A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO BULLYING PREVENTION WITHIN THE SCHOOL GATES AND BEYOND
- <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/sites/default/files/connected-community-approach-bullying-prevention.pdf>
- [social media for schools and preschools policy.](#)
- Wellbeing for Learning A-whole-school-approach

The following resources relate to mobile phones in schools, e-crime, online bullying, and cyber safety:

- [Student use of mobile phones and personal devices at school](#)
- [Crime involving electronic evidence \(e-crime\)](#)
- [Cyberbullying](#)
- [Bullying Prevention Strategy \(PDF 5.5MB\)](#)
- [www.bullyingnoway.com.au](http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au)
- [Cyber safety school resources](#)
- [Keeping safe: child protection curriculum](#)
- [eSafety Commissioner](#)
- [AustralianCurriculum](#)