

MOBILE DEVICE POLICY

BACKGROUND

School discussion about the existing mobile phone policy led to the view that, notwithstanding concerns about misuse, mobile devices offer educational opportunities when used purposefully. Purposes including: communicating via phone, message, email and social media; storage of data; accessing the internet; recording visual and sound data; photography; calculating; mapping; listening to recordings. There is agreement that the existing policy requires revision, however the school aims to discourage students using mobile phones in school breaks. We hope to encourage engagement with the natural world, including face to face conversation and communication.

GUIDELINES

Mobile devices include mobile phones, laptops, tablets and other listening devices. They do not include gaming devices. At Manjimup Senior High School students are permitted to bring mobile devices to school under the following conditions.

- Mobile device use is regulated by teachers and the school administration.
- Mobile phones are not to be used before school or during recess or lunchtimes except under the direction of a staff member for legitimate purposes.
- Students may use their device at school, including in a class, only under the direction and the express permission of a teacher. Uses include, but are not limited to, photographing work or notes, as a calculator, retrieving data, note taking, listening to recordings, and use of permitted applications.
- Students must have mobile phones off or switched to silent or do not disturb mode while at school unless directed by a teacher.
- Students must not use video or audio recording except when given specific permission to do so for educational purposes.
- Students are not to use devices to connect to social media, send text messages or share images while at school unless directed by a teacher.
- Students are not to connect to the school network with their mobile device to upload or download data. Data can only be accessed via personal data plans.
- Students who bring a mobile phone to school must register the phone number with the administration.
- Families can contact the school reception to pass on messages to students during school time. Students may use the land line phone in reception to contact parents if necessary.
- The school is not responsible for the loss, damage or theft of mobile devices brought to school. Devices are able to be deposited at the front office for safe keeping and collected at the end of the day.

CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH POLICY

1. First Offence

The device will be confiscated, secured in the front office and can be collected by the student at 3.15pm.

2. Second Offence

As for Step 1, except that the device will only be returned to a parent/guardian and cannot be collected by the student.

3. Subsequent Offences

As for Step 2, except that the student, the parent and school personnel will meet to discuss further action.

Why are mobile devices regulated at our school?

- The focus at Manjimup SHS is on learning without interruptions caused by mobile devices.
- The ease with which anonymous harassment can occur is a concern and users can't easily block material. The perpetrator of this type of bullying is invisible and difficult to detect. "School students are some of the worst perpetrators of sexual harassment ...and the popularity of mobile phones has helped spread this problem". Quote from the Sex Discrimination Commission in Queensland.
- The capacity to photograph, video and record, exacerbates privacy and bullying concerns.
- Inappropriate use of data, which can be digitally altered or enhanced, is a societal issue.
- The safety and security of children and adults, confidential information and student cheating, are potential issues.
- Inappropriate uses of mobile phone devices can be unlawful and lead to prosecution.