

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

PURPOSE

To clarify expectations of Mobile Phone use at school, with the purpose of improving the learning, engagement and wellbeing of students.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students and staff at Gisborne Secondary College

POLICY

At Gisborne Secondary College, we believe that it is crucial that all students are given the best environment in which to learn without interruptions and distractions created by mobile phone activity. The College is also committed to ensuring that classrooms and yard areas are supportive, productive environments and that students feel safe while they are at school. The use of mobile phones at school can lead to problems such as:

- harassment and bullying
- distraction in class
- social division
- conflicts of interest regarding duty of care within the school
- illicit filming and photographing of staff and students
- mental health issues

Gisborne Secondary College accepts that students may bring a mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school or to extra-curricular activities. It also accepts that staff may bring their phone to their workplace.

However, during school hours, (i.e., between the start of Mentor Assembly and the final bell at 3.15pm) students' mobile phones must be:

- kept securely in the student's locker, or
- deposited at the General Office

Students are not permitted to access their mobile phones during class time, lunchtime and recess.

Students with special needs that require the use of a mobile phone will be provided with a specific phone pass.

Mobile phones must never be used to:

- send inappropriate, harassing or threatening messages or phone calls
- engage in inappropriate social media use including cyber bullying
- capture video or images of people, including students, teachers and members of the school community without their permission
- capture video or images of violence, anti-social behaviour, behaviour that violates school rules or policies or any act that could damage an individual's or the College's reputation.

Students who engage in such behaviour will be subject to strong consequences consistent with GSC's Student Management and Wellbeing Policy.

Any student who is feeling unwell at school and needs to go home must arrange this through Sick Bay. Under no circumstances may students use a mobile phone to contact home and make arrangements to leave except through the General Office. Should students need to contact someone via phone, they are to go to the General Office.

Students who are seen with a mobile phone during school hours will be instructed to deposit the phone at the General Office. The phone will be receipted, the infringement noted on Xuno and parents informed. Students may collect their phones at the end of the day. Repeat offences or non-compliance will be reported to Year Level Coordinators and entail consequences consistent with our school's Student Management and Wellbeing Policy.

Staff may use their phones in offices, staffrooms, in the classroom for marking rolls, and while on yard duty for school business. Otherwise, staff are expected to model behaviour consistent with this policy.

INSURANCE

Students are responsible for their mobile phone. Please note that Gisborne Secondary College does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage. Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items, including mobile phones that may be brought to school. Students are responsible for items brought to school. It is expected that students ensure that their lockers are capable of securely storing their phones.

CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS

Students may be allowed to bring their mobile phones on overnight school camps or excursions. Gisborne Secondary College will provide students and their parents and carers with information about items that can be brought to special activities and events, including mobile phones.

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on 28th March 2019 and is scheduled for review on the 24th June 2019.