



CASTERTON SECONDARY COLLEGE MOBILE PHONE/ ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

Purpose

The widespread ownership of mobile phones and other electronic devices (excluding computers used for educational purposes) among young people requires that school administrators, teachers, students, and parents take steps to ensure that they are used responsibly at schools.

Mobile phones with cameras and screens create a new set of privacy issues for the school because:

- images of people can be taken without their knowledge
- images can be saved and then sent to other people
- it is possible to send these images to the internet
- they can be used to bully other people (cyber bullying)

Any other electronic devices that may cause disruption in classes and interrupt student learning.

Rationale

Mobile Phones. Casterton Secondary College accepts that parents give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also increasing concern about children travelling alone on public transport or commuting long distances to school. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently.

- The school acknowledges that some students may need to carry mobile phones to and from school.
- ***If students bring mobile phones to school they will hand them in during home group until the end of the school day.***
- It is critical that all students are given the best learning environment in which to learn without interruptions created by mobile phone use in lesson and study time.
- It is critical that a safe harassment free environment is provided for all students.

Other Electronic Devices

- The school acknowledges that there will be times teachers will require students to bring electronic devices to school to support their learning.
- If students are required to bring electronic devices to school they will only use them in the lesson/s designated by their teachers.
- It is critical that all students are given the best learning environment in which to learn without interruptions created by electronic devices used in lessons and study time not designated by their teachers.
- It is critical that a safe harassment free environment is provided for all students.

Responsibility

- It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile phones or other electronic devices (excluding computers used for educational purposes) to school to abide by the guidelines outlined in this document.
- It is the responsibility of students to hand in their mobile phones in home group at the start of the day until the end of the school day.
- It is the responsibility of students to ensure they do not bring electronic devices to school unless requested to do so by a teacher as part of their learning.
- The decision to provide a mobile phone or other electronic devices to their children should be made by parents or guardians however the college expects all families to comply with the Casterton Secondary College's Mobile Phone/Electronic Devices Policy.
- ***Parents should be aware that if their child takes a mobile phone to school it will remain in the home group box until the end of the school day.***
- Parents should be aware that if their child takes an electronic device (excluding computers used for educational purposes) to school for a lesson designated by their teachers it will only be used in that class.
- It is the responsibility of students to adhere to the law regarding privacy and bullying and the correct use of mobile phones.

Inappropriate Conduct

- In cases where there are gross invasions of privacy or where student images are used without permission (e.g. sent to another person on the Internet or mobile phone) there will be serious consequences.
- In cases where mobile phones and other electronic devices are used to bully and harass others there will be serious consequences.
- In cases where a student refuses to follow the guidelines outlined in this document the college will implement student behaviour management processes.

Sanctions

- Students who infringe the rules set out in this document will face normal college student behaviour management processes.
- Repeated infringements may result in suspension.
- As set out in the previous section, failure to heed the rules set out in this document may result in an alleged incident being referred to the police for investigation. In such cases, the parent or guardian would be notified immediately.