



Mobile Phone – Student Use Policy

Purpose

To explain to our school community the Department's and Wangaratta High School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile during school hours

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All students at Wangaratta High School and,
- Students' personal mobile phones brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

Definitions

A mobile phone is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

Policy

Wangaratta High School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Wangaratta High School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored in their locker during school hours
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see below for further information)
- When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office on 03 5723 0500.

Personal mobile phone use

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Wangaratta High School during school hours, including lunchtime and recess, unless an exception has been granted.

Where a student has been granted an exception, the student must use their mobile phone for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.

Secure storage

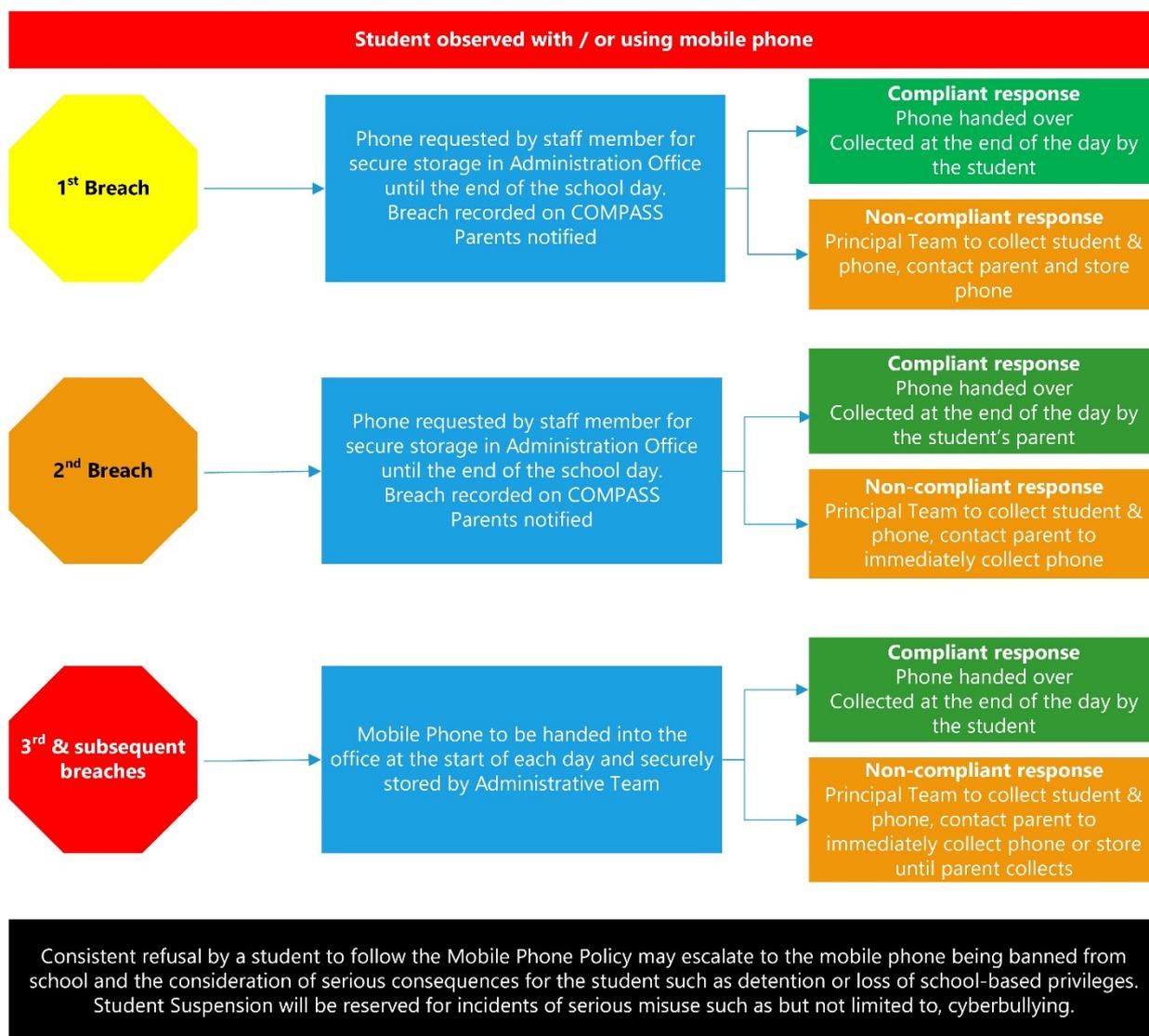
Mobile phones owned by students at Wangaratta High School are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Students are encouraged not to bring a mobile phone to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note Wangaratta High School does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft. Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items. Refer to the Department's [Personal Goods policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Wangaratta High School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Wangaratta High School students are required to store their phones in their lockers and ensure that their locker is securely locked.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Wangaratta High School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing Student Engagement & Wellbeing Policy. The specific and

immediate response by staff to a breach of the policy (use of mobile phone during school hours) will include:



At Wangaratta High School inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted.

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy:

- may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically,
 - Health and wellbeing-related exceptions; and
 - Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite.
- can be granted by a member of the principal team, in accordance with the Department’s [Mobile Phones Policy](#).

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department’s [Mobile Phones Policy](#) are:

1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)	Unit of work, learning sequence

For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	Individual Learning Plan, Individual Education Plan
--	---

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan e.g., a student with diabetes may use their mobile phone to monitor their blood sugar
Students who are Young Carers	A localised student record e.g., a young carer providing care to a parent with health issue may need to use their mobile phone to discuss health issues with medical professionals and the person they are caring for, during the school day

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students on excursions and camps	Risk assessment planning documentation
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel	Risk assessment planning documentation

Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted.

All exceptions will need to be requested in writing with the supporting documentation. The outcome of exception requests will be recorded on the student's COMPASS record.

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Wangaratta High School will provide students and their parents and carers with information about items that can or cannot be brought to camps, excursions, special activities and events, including personal mobile phones.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to:

- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience
- Students who are undertaking VET at an off-site location

Related policies and resources

- [Student Wellbeing & Engagement Policy](#)
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

Review period

This policy was last updated in December 2019 and is scheduled for review in November 2020.