



Ringwood Secondary College

Mobile Phone / Recreational Media Policy

Version No: 4

Date: September 2010

Committee: Policy and Education

Rationale:

Ringwood Secondary College recognises that many pupils now feel the need to carry a mobile phone and accepts that there are genuine reasons for their use – for example to contact parents after music or sports practice or in emergencies. The use of mobile phones or other recreational media is to be at the discretion of the teacher in the classroom and/or learning environment. The College discourages students bringing items of recreational media on to the college grounds unless required for their learning.

Recreational media includes but is not limited to iPods, iPod Touches, digital cameras, portable DVD players and personal digital assistants (PDA).

Aim:

To manage the use of mobile phones/recreational media using a ‘common sense’ approach. The following guidelines apply:

- Mobile phones/recreational media are brought to the college and used at their owner’s risk. The College will not accept any responsibility for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) resulting from mobile phone/recreational media use.
- Mobile phones/recreational media are often seen as a target for theft, and therefore should always be stored in a safe and secure location.
- Parents and students should ensure that such items are properly and adequately insured as personal property. These devices should also be clearly labelled with the owner’s name.
- Mobile phones/recreational media must be turned off and not be visible during lessons, private study periods and assemblies unless directed by the teacher. Usage includes the sending and receiving of text messages, data or taking photos.
- Mobile phones/recreational media must not be taken into any examination room or test. This is in accord with VCE policy.
- Use of mobile phones/recreational media during excursions will be determined by the classroom teacher/excursion leader.
- Students who become unwell during the day must not use the mobile phone to contact their parent/guardian to collect them. Students should follow the normal procedure of visiting the school

nurse or year level coordinator who will make these arrangements if necessary.

- Students must not film, take digital images or voice recordings of other students or staff without the consent of said person.
- Students must not upload images or videos onto the internet of members of the college community unless they explicitly give their consent (and, if underage, parental consent must be given).
- Mobile phones and electronic media devices must not be used to bully and threaten other members of the college community. Students and parents should refer to the Student Engagement Policy and the Bullying Policy for further information on cyberbullying.
- Students must not film incidents of bullying or fighting using electronic media.
- Students must not use or take mobile phones or cameras into the changing rooms or toilets.

Non-observance or breaches of these guidelines may result in the student's mobile phone/recreational media device being confiscated and/or other sanctions. If the mobile phone/recreational media is confiscated, it may need to be collected from an Assistant Principal by the parent/guardian of the student.

Cooperation, courtesy, consideration and respect of others are essential at all times.