



School Phone Policy

Policy Name: School Student Phone Policy
Date approved: November 2018 by Senior Management Team
To be reviewed: Annually

Rationale:

The school's Strategic Intents for Best Practice Learning at Kinross Wolaroi School (KWS) include:

- Cultivating a culture of academic challenge and high expectations through the development of persistence and perseverance in the face of challenge – Grit
- Nurturing potential in Literacy

The role of schools is complex and includes:

1. Equipping students with the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding to achieve their academic and co-curricular potential whilst maintaining positive wellbeing.
2. Equipping our students with the personal learning and thinking skills that will support them throughout their schooling and beyond: effective communication; independent thinking; critical and creative thinking; collaboration and teamwork; self-organisation; perseverance in the face of challenge.

The exponential growth of technology and its role in education for the 21st Century Student, has been very exciting but also very challenging. Students are faced with more distractions than ever before and are struggling to maintain focus and concentration, manage impulsivity and avoid distraction. It is our role to help support them to develop as successful learners.

General research shows that when people carry phones with them, they display lower levels of concentration due to: constant interruptions; an increased fear of missing out; reduced memory; warped views on reality and increased levels of stress. Most recent research has found that the mere presence of a Smart phone, either in a pocket or on a desk, is enough to reduce cognitive capacity.

Policy:

- From January 2019, in order to support students' learning and positive wellbeing, the school will no longer permit students to have their phones in lessons (including Study Periods in Year 12). Students will be given the choice to keep their phones in their lockers during class time or place them – switched off - in a red box that will be provided at the front of the classroom, expressly for this purpose.
- Unlike iPads and Laptops, students are **not** required to have a phone in school at all. If, in an emergency, a student needs to contact a parent or a parent needs to contact his/her child during the school day, this contact will be made via KWS Reception. Students who choose to bring their

phones into school must therefore acknowledge that the school will accept no responsibility for loss/theft or damage to the phone.

- If a student chooses to ignore the school policy and is found to have their phone on them during lesson time or attempts to use his/her phone for any reason during lesson time without explicit permission from the teacher, the phone will be immediately confiscated. There will be no verbal warning to put the phone away before confiscation. Failure to leave the phone in his/her locker or place the phone – switched off – in the box at the front of the classroom as he/she enters the room, will be treated as a clear breach of School Policy and will incur a sanction.
- Kahoot should be accessed via iPads and laptops and not student phones.
- Confiscated phones will be kept by the General Duties Officer, Mr Garry Yeo, and can only be collected at the end of the school day *following* the day of confiscation. For example, if a phone is confiscated during the day on a Monday, a student will not be permitted to collect the phone until 3.25pm Tuesday. If a phone is confiscated on a Friday, a student will not be permitted to collect the phone until after the weekend – Monday 3.25pm.
- Mr Garry Yeo will keep a record of any student who has his/her phone confiscated. Should this happen repeatedly, parents will be called into the school to discuss their child's inability to self-manage impulsivity and abide by the school rules.
- Students will be informed about this new School Policy on Wednesday 30th January 2019.
- Parents have been sent a letter detailing this school policy and have been asked to talk to their child about this new school policy before Term 1 begins. It is important that students recognise the importance of their learning and acknowledge that they are accountable for their own learning behaviour.
- Students will also be strongly discouraged from using their phones during recess or lunchtime. Recess and lunchtime are important opportunities for social interaction; the use of phones for purposes other than making necessary phone calls has been found to be detrimental to students' mental wellbeing. If a student is found to be repeatedly or inappropriately using his/her phone during recess or lunch, staff on duty should confiscate the phone and pass it to Mr Garry Yeo.

iPads and laptops

As mentioned in the **Rationale**, nurturing potential in Literacy – especially extended response writing – and developing 'grit' as a learning behaviour, dictates that device-use *in class* should be restricted to **only** those tasks and activities that require the use of a device. (Device use may be appropriate for independent study at home and in Study Periods – especially when accessing resources and task activities through Frog. Device use is also necessary when working with Onenote; Frog; Google Classroom.)

Students should not be making notes on an iPad or a laptop in class but should be handwriting notes, recording class discussion and creating mindmaps through handwriting.

Extended handwritten responses and classwork in notebooks and folders should be regularly checked and monitored – students who are not recording notes from class discussions or completing extended and short answer written responses should be brought to account by the classroom teacher. Notes; essays; extended written responses should be well organised – they form the basis of revision material.

Guided reading and writing (handwriting) activities should be implemented throughout the curriculum – implementing subject specific literacy will form part of the lesson observation template.

From 2020 there will be no eBooks on the textbook list that goes out.