

Fremantle College Mobile Phone Policy

In 2020, the use of mobile phones in all public schools is not permitted, unless it is for explicit medical or educational use and/or as directed by the school. This policy extends to the use of smart watches and associated listening devices, as well accessories such as headphones and ear buds.

Fremantle College uses this policy and the following guiding principles and procedures to manage student behaviour in regards to mobile phones on site.

The policy statement:

We expect ALL mobile phones for ALL students to be 'off and away all day'. That is, off and in a student's bag from the time a student arrives at the college to the conclusion of the school day. The only exceptions occur where a student has been granted an exemption for the following use of their mobile phone:

- To monitor a health condition as part of a school approved documented health care plan; or
- For a particular educational purpose under the direct instruction of a teacher; or
- With permission of a teacher for a specified purpose.

Please see the relevant sections below for details.

What are the expectations regarding mobile phone use at Fremantle College?

- While at Fremantle College, students are the responsibility of the school. All communication between parents and students, during school hours, is to occur via the school's administration or relevant Student Services office. Parents are asked to phone the college number, 9338 8900, if they have urgent information needing to be passed on to their child.
- Mobile phones brought to the college and kept off and out of sight in a student's bag are the students responsibility and at the student's risk. The college cannot accept any responsibility for theft, loss or damage resulting from bringing a mobile phone to school. Fremantle College does not have insurance that covers theft or damage of mobile phones. Students and parents should recognise that mobile phones can be targets for theft and, accordingly, it is encouraged that students do not bring phones to school at all. If they are required, use inexpensive phones for communication.
- Fremantle College does not have the capacity to safely store mobile phones on behalf of students during the day. If a mobile phone is confiscated off a student, it will be carefully stored, however the college bears no responsibility for security of the phone.

What should occur if a student needs a mobile phone to monitor their health condition as part of a school approved documented health care plan?

- If the use of mobile phone technology is required for medical, mental health support or part of a learning support plan, this is implemented through a documented, negotiated process between parent, student and college staff prior to permission being granted. This includes Smart watches, listening devices and includes headphones.

The following steps apply:

- Parents are to contact the college with medical professional documentation outlining the need for mobile phone technology as a strategy to manage a medical/mental health condition.
- Students Services Year Coordinators will develop a documented Learning Support Plan and communicate this to teachers. This will be reviewed twice yearly.
- Your child will be given a Wellbeing Pass, allowing them to show the teacher their exemption at the time it is required. This will also signal to other students, albeit subtly, that your child has an authorised purpose for phone use.

What does this policy mean by an “educational purpose” and how will students know when it is allowed? The Fremantle College and Department of Education policy recognises that there are times when use of a mobile phone can enhance the learning process. Examples of this include;

- Taking photos of homework or an explanation on the board,
- Recording a speech, performance or presentation for feedback later,
- To set reminders for tasks that are due as homework
- To research where a student does not have a laptop
- Use of Connect, Kahoot and Education Perfect
- Use of calculator and timer in courses other than Mathematics (specific calculators are used in Maths and should be supplied by the student and brought to school) and;
- Specific applications used in the Specialist Music program.

Permission for educational use will be given for parts of a lesson when appropriate and will be clearly, visibly and explicitly indicated to students and permitted for that time period only. Students will know permission is given when:

- Teachers give a verbal explanation clarifying the limits, purpose and extent of the permission given. (ie. Is it all the class? Or a group? For how long? To do what?)
- A visual cue is given on the whiteboard to ensure all students are aware of the permission, and when it finishes. Students will know “✓ When its green, phones can be seen”

How will breaches of this policy be managed?

We manage breaches of this policy in accordance with the Student Behaviour in Public Schools Policy and Procedures. Students have had a reminder system for the first 6 months of 2020, the process from Term 3 2020 will involve the student’s phone being confiscated and given to the front office.

The process is outlined below:

1. The teacher (either classroom teacher or duty teacher on the school grounds) will ask the student to hand over their phone. The teacher will place the phone in an envelope and label with student’s name and date.
2. Teachers will submit this to the front office. The front office clerical will store securely and record the details provided.
3. In the first instance of a student having their phone confiscated they are able to collect their phone at 2.50pm on the day from the front office.
4. In the second instance of a student having their phone confiscated, the parent/carer will be notified and required to collect the phone from administration at the end of the school day between 2.40pm – 3.30pm
5. In the third instance of a student having their phone confiscated, the parent/carer will be notified and required to collect the phone from administration at the end of the school day between 2.40pm – 3.30pm, and attend a case conference between parent, student and the Associate Principal to plan for intervention and support for the future. A behavioural contract will be formed and is likely to include possible suspension for any future instances of mobile phone use.

If the student does not comply with handing over the phone, the teacher will inform the student that they will be referring the student, who has not followed instructions, to the Year Coordinator for further action (possible suspension).

We aim to work with our parent community, as partners, so that all students manage this transition to a total mobile phone ban in 2020 maturely and without incident. We know that many parents support this focus on learning and on ensuring that distractions are kept to an absolute minimum. Students do use their mobile phones for a variety of reasons that are valid and habitual. Therefore, we need to work together to ensure that;

- Students can tell the time on an analogue clock in the classroom, or wear watches.
- Students remember to keep their timetables and/or copy them out in a file.
- Students can pay for canteen services using credit/debit cards/cash.
- Students are provided physical notes by their parents for permission to leave school for appointments, or other similar incidents. (not done by text)
- Students are encouraged to go to their Student Services office if they need to contact parents; and
- Upper School Students notify employers of the policy and check/return messages after school hours.