



ATWELL COLLEGE

## MOBILE PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

It is a fact of life today that many students own or have access to a mobile telephone. Many parents see their child possessing a mobile phone in terms of safety/security considerations. However, the schools teaching and learning program must also be free from the disruption that may be caused by free access to a mobile telephone. Mobile phones can disrupt and distract students and staff in a variety of learning environments and hence are regarded as a safety hazard.

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**Parents and carers who wish to contact their children for emergencies can do so via reception on 6174 2200. Students may use the telephone in the Student Services if parents have to be contacted.**

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Mobile phones are attractive items and can be stolen or lost. Atwell College and its staff are not responsible if a student's mobile telephone is lost, stolen or damaged.

Due to these factors, in 2007, the Director General of Education directed that mobile telephones were not to be used by students in classrooms. According to Regulation 70 of the School Education Regulations 2000, the following order is made concerning students and mobile phones:

If any of these items are brought onto the school grounds, they must be turned off and not be visible or used for any purpose- including listening to music or using a calculator - in classrooms during lessons. A student who breaches this rule will have his/her phone confiscated.

The first time a phone is confiscated, the student will be able to collect it from the Learning Area office at the end of the school day. Any subsequent confiscations will require a parent/guardian to come to the Administration building to collect it. Subsequent confiscations may also result in a loss of good standing.

Students must also note that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. The posting of images of people without their permission onto the internet, through the various social media platforms, or the transfer of images taken without permission of the person whose image has been taken, has the potential of being illegal under the Telecommunications Act and could result in charges being laid by the police.

Refusal to adhere to the Atwell College mobile phone and electronic devices policy can result in further consequences.

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**Any students found to be involved in recording, distributing or uploading inappropriate images or videos or students, parents or staff on school premises will be suspended.**

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