



## Denison College Kelso High Campus Mobile Phone and Device Policy

### **Overview**

Kelso High Campus believes in maintaining a safe and effective educational environment for all students. Research shows that the mere presence of mobile phones in the classroom and playground can be detrimental to student performance, mental health and positive social interactions. Therefore, Kelso High Campus has banned the use of mobile phones in the school at all times apart from:

- 1) Students who require it as a medical emergency device
- 2) Year 12 students accessing the Senior Study. This is at the discretion of the teacher.
- 3) Some pre-approved learning activities (outlined below)

Kelso High Campus accepts that parents give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also increasing concern about children travelling alone on public transport or commuting long distances to school. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance. As a result, students will still be able to carry their mobile phones with them at all times of the day, provided they are locked and away in a lockable pouch called a Yondr pouch. The pouches are able to be locked and then unlocked as students enter and leave the school. More information about Yondr company is available if requested. If a parent needs to contact a student during the school day, they may call the **Front Office on 6331 4544**.

Although the school understands that many students will bring mobile phones it accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones, including travelling to and from school.

### **Pre-approved Learning Device**

There may be times when phones may be used at the discretion of the classroom teacher for a pre-approved learning device. In this instance the teacher will bring a portable unlocking device to the classroom. It is not necessary, however, to have a mobile phone for learning, an iPad or a laptop can be used. If a student does not have a device they will be able to use one from the school.

### **School Sport, Excursions and Sports Carnivals**

The mobile phone policy is also applicable to school sport. Students will not be able to unlock their phone to take out of the school for Wednesday school sport. Students will, however, be able to take their phones and use them when they are attending school excursions and swimming and athletics carnivals.

### **Shared Course Students**

Shared course students from Bathurst High Campus will be expected to follow the same procedures. Their phones must be locked away for the duration of their visit. Kelso High Campus shared students will only be allowed to unlock their phones on the way to Bathurst High Campus if they are attending during periods 5 and 6 and are not returning to the school. Otherwise their phones must remain in the pouches.

### **Yondr Pouches**

Initially all students will be given a Yondr pouch. New students will be assigned a Yondr pouch on arrival through the front office. Students are able to decorate and label their pouches as long as no offensive or inappropriate language or images are used.

Students who have lost or damaged their pouch are not to bring their phone to school until they have organised a replacement pouch. Replacement pouches are to be purchased through the front office at a rate of \$10 per pouch.

Spot checks will be done at different times throughout the year to check the functionality and presentation of the pouch and that students are correctly following the policy.

### **Procedures for not following the mobile phone policy**

The flow chart attached outlines the procedures for not complying with the school's mobile phone policy. Additional information to the flow chart:

- 1) The parent / carer may choose not to collect the phone that day. In these instances the phone will be kept in the school safe until it is convenient for the parent / carer to collect.
- 2) There may be exceptional and rare circumstances where a parent / carer is not able to collect the phone that day and the student requires it that afternoon or evening. In negotiation with a Deputy Principal or Principal the phone in these instances may be given to the student, however the parent / carer will still be required to attend a meeting at the school as soon as possible. The student will not be allowed to have their phone at school until this meeting occurs.

### **Staff use of Mobile Phones**

Staff need to have their phones on them at all times in case they need them in an emergency. Staff also require them for some administrative purposes - such as roll marking. However, apart from these circumstances staff are expected to model appropriate mobile phone behaviour and only use their phone where necessary.

### **Policy around other devices**

- Wireless Headphones are banned and must not be seen at school at all. The only exception to this rule is for Year 12 students in the senior study at the discretion of the teacher.
- Smart Phones must remain on aeroplane mode at all times during the day.
- Other devices such as iPads and laptops are allowed, however they must be used appropriately. The internet is only to be accessed via the school network and students must comply with teacher's instructions when using these devices.

If wireless headphones are seen or used and if other devices are used inappropriately, they will be confiscated and the implementation of the above procedures will occur.