

## **DIANELLA SECONDARY COLLEGE EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRE STUDENT MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOLS POLICY**

### **Policy**

The Department of Education Off and Away policy does not permit student use of mobile phones in public schools unless for medical or teacher directed educational purpose.

In line with employment requirements, Dianella SC ESC has developed the following mobile phone policy which embraces independence and responsibility. It is important to note that it is not a requirement at Dianella SC ESC for students to have a mobile phone at school.

Dianella SC ESC recognises that an increasing number of parents/carers who for safety, security and/or emergency purposes wish to provide their children with mobile phones. This policy details the conditions under which mobile phones are permitted at Dianella SC Education Support Centre.

### **Conditions of Use**

- The use of mobile phones for all students will be banned from the time they arrive at school to the conclusion of the school day, unless under the direction of the teacher. This includes before school and at break times, excursions, workplace learning and TAFE (off and away all day).
- Year 7 – 10 students who bring their mobile phone to school are required to switch off, and hand their phone to their teacher. The student owner of the phone will be recorded and the phone securely stored in the classroom. The students will then collect the phone from their teacher at the conclusion of the day.
- Year 11 – 13 students are permitted to have mobile phones in their possession during the school day, however the phones must be switched off and stored in their bags. If a student continues to use their mobile phone during the day, they will be required to hand their phone in daily to their teacher.

### **Exemptions and Communication**

Exemptions to this ban include where a student requires a mobile phone:

- to monitor a health condition as part of a school approved documented health care plan; or
- under the direct instruction of a teacher for educational purposes; or with permission of a teacher for a specified purpose.
- Smart watches must be in 'aeroplane mode' so phone calls and messages cannot be sent or received during the school day.
- While at Dianella SC ESC, students are the responsibility of the school. All communication between parents and students, during school hours, should occur via the school's administration.

### **Breaches of this Policy**

- Breaches of this policy will be managed in accordance with the *School Behaviour Management Policy and Procedures*.
- Students who do not comply with this policy will have their mobile phone confiscated and held at the administration office. The student can collect the mobile phone at the end of the school day.

- In case of repeated inappropriate mobile phone use by a student, their mobile phone will be confiscated and held at the administration office. The parent/carer will be informed and requested to collect the mobile phone from the school and their earliest convenience.
- In case of repeated inappropriate mobile phone use by a student, the principal may direct the withdrawing of the student's mobile phone from the school for a determined period or permanently.

**Further Guidance**

*For the purposes of this policy, 'mobile phones' includes smart watches and associated listening accessories, such as, but not limited to, headphones and ear buds.*