



MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Alamanda College

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Alamanda College's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices including smart watches and devices alike during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Alamanda College and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices including smart watches brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

DEFINITIONS

A mobile phone is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network. For the purpose of this policy, "mobile phone" refers to mobile phones and any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watches.

POLICY

Alamanda College understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school or to extra-curricular activities.

At Alamanda College:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see below for further information)
- When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office.

Personal mobile phone use

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones – Student Use Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Alamanda College during school hours, including lunchtime and recess, unless an exception has been granted.



Where a student has been granted an exception, the student must use their mobile phone for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.

Secure storage

Mobile phones owned by students at Alamanda College are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Students are encouraged not to bring a mobile phone to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that Alamanda College does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft. Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items. Refer to the Department's [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Alamanda College will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Alamanda College students are required to store their phones securely in a teacher's office, in lock boxes and a protective sleeve.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Alamanda College may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and/or *Code of Conduct* or *Bullying* policies.

At Alamanda College inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted, and particularly use of a mobile phone:

- in any way that disrupts the learning of others
- to send inappropriate, harassing or threatening messages or phone calls
- to engage in inappropriate social media use including cyber bullying
- to capture video or images of people, including students, teachers and members of the school community without their permission
- to capture video or images in the school toilets, changing rooms, swimming pools (during swimming carnivals and swimming programs outside of school grounds) and gyms
- during exams and assessments
- during class or assemblies or in any way that disrupts the learning of others

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically,

- Health and wellbeing-related exceptions; and\
- Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite.
- can be granted by the Principal, or by the teacher for that class, in accordance with the Department's

Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy.

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#) are:

1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	Individual Learning Plan, Individual Education Plan

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan and individual learning plan
Students who are Young Carers	A localised student record

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment planning documentation, Health support plan, agreement with Principal and AP
Students on excursions and camps	Risk assessment planning documentation, Health support plan, agreement with Principal and AP
Before and after school when students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	No documentation required

Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted.

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Alamanda College will provide students and their parents and carers with information about items that can or cannot be brought to camps, excursions, special activities and events, including personal mobile phones and alike devices.



Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- Wearable devices for health purposes
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school’s website
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings where applicable
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Code of Conduct, Personal Property, Bullying (available on the school website or at the front office upon request)
- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)
- [Weapons — Banning, Searching and Seizing Harmful Items](#)
- [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	July 2023
Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal and Assistant principals – July 2023 at review meeting - All teaching staff on our daily organisation email- July 25th 2023 - Parents and community – Via the school website July 2023 - Planned consultation with School council meeting August 2023 – Feedback accepted, discussed and adjustments will be made accordingly
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	June 2026 – or annually as required.