

DON COLLEGE MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Phones can be an excellent resource that enhance the teaching and learning program. However, they can be a distraction to learning and a barrier to engagement. Don College recognises that there are times when staff and students require access to a phone for educational purposes, well-being and convenience. We seek to accommodate possible needs whilst maintaining a culture of learning. Our goal is to achieve the best possible student learning outcomes.

REQUIREMENTS

1. During class time students will have devices turned off and out of sight, unless instructed otherwise by the teacher.
2. If a student is expecting an urgent phone call or message which means they need to access their phone during class time, then they should request permission from the teacher to access their phone.
3. If a student does not follow the above expectations, we have a concern for the wellbeing of the individual and possible technology addiction and disruption to learning. We will inform the parent/guardian/carer that the device is a distraction and work in partnership with parents and the student to follow up concerns.

If a student is using the device in a manner that is compromising the learning of others, teachers and/or Assistant Principal or Principal will follow up with the usual behaviour processes.
4. If a parent/carer or guardian has a message for their child that is of such urgent nature that it cannot wait until the student checks their device during break times, then they are welcome to call the main office on 64 240 200 so that this message can be promptly conveyed to the student.
5. We encourage all staff, parents/carers and guardians to model appropriate use of devices and honour the hours that students are in class as dedicated learning time. This includes modelling of courtesy, consideration and respect for others at all times.
6. Students who require regular technology access during class time for health and well-being of self and/or others (for example, monitoring of blood sugar levels) are requested to consult with an Assistant Principal to arrange permissions.

Don College will provide a positive, comprehensive education programme to inform all community members on how to use technology productively in life and how to recognise the dangers of technology including distraction, cyber safety and addiction.