



EASTERN GOLDFIELDS COLLEGE STUDENT MOBILE PHONES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Department of Education does not permit student use of mobile phones in public schools unless for medical or teacher directed educational purpose. It is important to note that it is not a requirement at Eastern Goldfields College for students to have a mobile phone at school.

At Eastern Goldfields College, we cater to the needs of our young adult learners so that they can take their next important steps in their life. Our primary goal is to move students to increasing independence where they understand, appreciate and accept responsibility for the choices they make and in doing so, make the most of their opportunities. As part of this workplace approach, we seek to teach our students to be responsible and accountable for their actions in all aspects of college life, including mobile phone and other device usage.

CONDITIONS OF USE AT EASTERN GOLDFIELDS COLLEGE

Department of Education policy states that students are permitted to be in possession of their mobile phone during the school day, but they should be turned off and put away all day (“turned off and neither seen nor heard”). This includes before school and at break times. All smart watches must also be “off & away” so phone calls and messages cannot be sent or received during the day. For the purpose of this policy, ‘mobile phones’ includes smart watches and devices, associated listening accessories, such as (but not limited to) headphones and ear pods.

With this understanding, and given our workplace approach at EGC, the following conditions of use apply:

1. BEFORE COLLEGE

Students are allowed to access their emails, arrange work shifts or contact their parents/guardians on college grounds until 8:20am only. After this time, their mobile devices are expected to be turned “off & away”.

2. DURING CLASS TIME

The Principal and staff are responsible for determining when a mobile phone can be used by a student for educational or other specific purposes. Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- Researching educational topics
- Viewing web based material, recordings, catalogues
- Photo taking such as lesson notes
- Reading text

As such, during class time, phones are to be “**off & away**” before the student enters the classroom. This includes the time in which students need to leave class (toilet, collecting printing or photocopying, attending a meeting etc.)

Devices can only be used with the explicit permission of the teacher.

The listening of music on any device, as well as the use of headphones/earphones is not permitted. The use of headphones/earphones for the purpose of ‘cancelling noise’ will only be permitted with a formal exemption, as agreed to by the College (see ‘Exemptions and Parent/Guardian Communications’).

3. RECESS, LUNCH, PRIVATE STUDY AND IN-BETWEEN CLASSES

Phones are to be “**off & away**” during these times.

WEDNESDAYS

Students attending College on a Wednesday must adhere to the “off & away” policy when attending a lesson/seminar which is led by a teacher (see “during class time”).

4. AFTER 3.15PM

Students are permitted to use their mobile phones after the end of the school day, unless involved in an activity which is teacher led and therefore ‘during class time’ conditions apply.

EXEMPTIONS, PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMUNICATIONS & EXCURSIONS

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.

Whilst at Eastern Goldfields College, students are the responsibility of the college. All communication between parents/guardians and students during school hours, should occur via the College administration. In emergencies, where students need to urgently make contact with parents/guardians/work, students are to notify the appropriate college staff.

Guidelines for the use of mobile phones as well as headphones/earphones whilst on excursions, will be outlined in the documentation of each excursion and remain at the discretion of the teacher in charge.

BREACHES OF THIS POLICY

Breaches of this policy will be managed in accordance with the College’s *Mobile Phone Policy Flowchart* and associated *Behaviour Management Policy and Procedures*.

1. In the first instance students are to be reminded to put the phone away – not seen or heard.
2. For further breaches students may have their device confiscated.
Ongoing breaches may result in the student being invited to a compulsory educative session on ‘mobile phone addiction’, to be held at the College on a Wednesday (time & date to be arranged). Failure to attend will result in suspension.
3. In the event that a student becomes defiant when asked to hand over the device, the College will deal with the incident under the Behaviour Management Policy and may result in a suspension and subsequent Loss of Good Standing.
4. At the end of each term, all student’s mobile phone breaches will be re-set.
5. Students who use a mobile phone (still and video) to film people and their activities without their knowledge and/or permission and any student found to be involved in recording, distributing or uploading inappropriate images, videos of students, parents or staff on college grounds will be suspended immediately.

The College will take no responsibility for lost, damaged or stolen mobile phones.