Dimboola Memorial Secondary College
Mobile Phone Policy

Rationale

Mobile phones are an important, modern-day communication tool. However, they can be easily misused, lost or damaged and must therefore be effectively managed.

Aim

To ensure the school provides clear advice on the use of mobile phones.

Policy

Mobile phones can only be used at school under certain conditions – outlined below in the Guidelines.

Mobile phone cameras (still and video) must not be used:

- in banned spaces for example changing rooms, toilets, gyms and swimming pools
- to film people and their activities without their knowledge or permission.

Mobiles phones must not be used to send harassing or threatening messages. All instances of illegal activities will be referred to the appropriate authorities.

Guidelines

Students will:

- have their mobile phones switched off and out of sight during all classes
- only use mobile phones in a class when EXPLICIT permission is granted by the teacher
- only use mobile phones when usage will not disrupt the normal school routine
- only use their mobile phones before or after school, or during recess and lunch breaks
- display courtesy, consideration and respect for others when using a mobile phone
- ensure that their phones are always stored in a safe and secure place. (DMSC takes no responsibility for lost or damaged phones.)
- hand their phone to a teacher for safe storage if requested. (If caught using their phones in class, the teacher will confiscate the phone until the end of the school day.)

The School will:

- disallow the use of mobile phones in the classroom unless they can be appropriately incorporated into the learning program
- inform students and parents that mobile phones are used at their owners' risk
- take appropriate action against any student who:
  - photographs or films other individuals without their consent or who sends harassing or threatening messages
  - is caught using a mobile phone in exams or assessments. (In a VCE Exam, use of a mobile phone can mean an automatic "N".)

Ratified by DMSC School Council   **October 26th 2015**