WAGGA WAGGA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
FORWARD IN FAITH

Student Personal Device Policy

Reviewed by:	Rahmi Jackson
Review date:	August 2026
Approved by:	Board of Directors
Approval date:	August 2026
Date for next review:	August 2030
Version:	2.0

Version History

Version	Date	Notes
1.0	November 2024	Initial policy development to create policy and procedure around student use of mobile phones at the College
2.0	August 2026	Review to include ALL personal devices – change of policy name from Mobile Phone Policy to Student Personal Device Policy

College Vision

In Christ, partnering with families in providing excellent academic and practical education, preparing students to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly before God

1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction

At the College, our approach to student personal devices is shaped by the growing body of research that finds unrestricted access to smart devices during the school day exposes young people to unfiltered content, social pressure, cyber-bullying, addictive design, and constant interruptions to learning and attention. Even well-intentioned use can lead to impulse-driven checking, reduced face-to-face connection, and increased privacy risks. To protect student wellbeing and ensure classrooms remain places of focus, belonging, and safety, all student personal devices are required to be locked away during school hours. This policy supports healthier habits, stronger relationships, and a safe College environment.

1.2 Christian Rationale

We recognise our responsibility in partnership with parents to help young people form wisdom, self-control and love. Proverbs highlights that our hearts and habits are shaped by what we give our attention to: *"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it"* (Proverbs 4:23). Constant digital access exposes students to unfiltered content, heightened comparison (selected and filtered), bullying, addictive design, and privacy risks that are unhelpful and unhealthy. By requiring devices to be locked away during the school day, we are actively helping students resist distraction, steward their minds, and focus on the important learning that is the work of the classroom, and focus on the people around them, which is important for community. This policy is an expression of our calling to protect children, nurture healthy relationships, and create an environment where they can grow in character, focus and godly maturity.

1.3 Purpose and Scope

This document outlines the policies which underpin the management of student personal devices, providing a consistent framework for their use in the College environment.

This policy applies to all students while attending College or College activities (including camps and offsite excursions) and addresses their access to and use of personal electronic devices. For the purposes of this policy personal devices are defined as any digital device that is capable of connecting to telecommunications (e.g., via a sim card, or by connecting to a mobile phone), connecting to the internet and/or taking recordings (audio, video, photo). This explicitly includes mobile phones, smart watches, smart glasses, and smart rings.

College provided laptops and approved BYOD laptops are excluded from this policy.

Student headphones are excluded from the policy statements in section 2 below, unless they are capable of independently recording audio. Instead, policy statements in section 3 below apply for student headphones.

2. Student Personal Device Policy Statements

Students are not permitted to use or wear personal devices while attending the College or College activities (including sport carnivals, excursions and camps).

The College will provide students with a lockable pouch, and any student personal devices must be locked away in their pouch from arrival at the College until after the end of the school day.

If requested, students will be required to present their pouch to staff at any stage during the day to demonstrate their device is still locked away.

Student personal devices observed out of the provided pouch during the school day will be confiscated until the end of the school day and additional consequences may apply following the Student Code of Conduct.

If a student repeatedly breaches the Personal Device Policy, then a parent may be contacted and their device may remain confiscated at the College Office until a parent is able to collect it.

If there is a genuine need for a student to make a phone call during the day, they can report to the College office and request to do so there.

If a student feels that they have a genuine need to access their personal device, a member of the College leadership may approve temporary access to the device. Any such access should occur under direct supervision.

Exemptions to the Student Personal Device Policy for a specific student may be provided by the Principal. Parents and carers can request an exemption by writing to the Principal outlining the reasons for their request. Each application will be considered on a case-by-case basis to ensure a student's medical or disability needs are met. Supporting evidence from a suitable health professional supporting the request is generally expected.

Exemptions for a specific College activity may be provided by a member of the College Executive.

Students are required to pay the replacement price to replace a damaged or lost pouch.

During any period when a student has lost or damaged their pouch, while waiting a replacement, they must hand their personal devices in to the College office each morning and collect these at the end of the day.

3. Headphones

Headphones may not be generally used by students in classes or on the playground except when authorised by a supervising staff member.

Year 11 and 12 students may use headphones during study periods.

Exemptions are approved for the use of headphones through the student's needs planning process, parents can contact the College's Inclusive Education Leader to request an adjustment for headphones to be considered.

4. Communicating this Policy

Students will be informed about this policy and provided with updates regarding its implementation through roll call, stage or class meetings, and assemblies.

Parents and carers are to be informed of this policy during enrolment interviews before enrolling at the College.