



Student Use of Mobile Phones and Personal Devices Policy Implementation Plan

The Department for Education's *Student Use of Mobile Phones and Personal Devices Policy* is designed to minimise disruptions to student learning and to support safety and wellbeing at school. It provides direction to students, staff and families about managing personal mobile phones and other electronic devices that students may choose to bring to school. These include, but are not limited to; smartwatches, iPads and wireless and/or Bluetooth earbuds. The policy applies while students are present on school grounds, or attending an authorised school activity such as an excursion, camp or similar.

Our school recognises that there are legitimate reasons for students to bring a mobile phone or personal device to school. This may include:

- to ensure their safety while travelling
- so that parents can contact them outside of school hours

From Term 3 of 2023, students at Mount Gambier High School will be required to store their personal electronic devices "off and away" between the start and end of each school day.

All personal electronic devices brought to school will be stored securely in a YONDR pouch. The YONDR pouch will be provided, free of charge to all students prior to the end of Term 2 and remain the property of the school for the duration of their enrolment at Mount Gambier High School. The pouch will be returned at the end of Year 12, or in the event that the student is made a leaver.

Daily Process for Storing Personal Electronic Devices

- Student mobile phones, smart watches and wireless/Bluetooth earbuds are switched off or placed in flight mode when entering the school grounds and placed securely in the YONDR pouch. The pouch is then locked using the magnetic fastener.
- Students may choose to store their pouch in their locker, or carry it with them during the day. The YONDR pouch remains locked for the duration of the school day.
- At the end of the school day, students unlock the YONDR pouch at one of the secure unlocking stations. In the event of a student leaving early, the pouch will be unlocked at Student Services when the student signs out. Unlocking stations will be located in the following areas:
 - Carthew Building
 - Miller Building
 - Arts Building
 - Tech Studies/TFT Building
 - Fenwick Building
 - Vorenas Building

Unlocking stations will not be accessible once the buildings are locked on school days or on weekends.

- Students who fail to bring their YONDR pouch to school (due to loss, damage or forgetting to bring it) will hand in their personal devices to ICT Services (located in the Collaborative Learning Centre) for safe keeping, as soon as they arrive at school.

Lost or Damaged Pouches

- If a pouch is lost, a replacement pouch must be purchased from Student Services.
- If a pouch is deemed faulty due to manufacturer error, a replacement pouch will be issued, at no cost to the student.
- If a pouch is deemed to have been tampered with, or damaged so that it cannot be secured, a replacement pouch must be purchased from Student Services. Note: Damage consists of any signs that the physical integrity of the pouch has been compromised, whether intentional or unintentional, as determined by a member of the school leadership team.

Use of Laptops and iPads

The use of laptops and/or iPads will not be permitted outside of the classroom/Collaborative Learning Centre (this includes before school, recess, lunch and after school).

Headphones

Students may bring wired headphones for use ONLY when expressly permitted by the teacher.

Exemptions

Extenuating Circumstances

Individual students may have extenuating reasons for needing access to their personal device during school hours, such as where:

- the device is used to monitor or help manage a health condition
- the device is a negotiated adjustment to a learning program for a student with disability or learning difficulties
- the device is used for translation by a student with English as an additional language
- the student has extenuating personal circumstances that require them to have more ready access to their personal device, such as being a parent themselves or a primary carer to a younger sibling or unwell family member.

Exemptions can be requested by completing an “*Electronic Device Exemption Form*” (available for download from www.mghs.sa.edu.au). Each request is judged on a case-by-case basis and approved by the Principal (or delegate). Exemptions will be recorded in the student’s file or health care/learning plan as appropriate and noted on Daymap to inform staff that an exemption is in place.

Temporary exemptions for other agreed purposes

Students may be permitted to use their devices in the following circumstances:

- Class teachers may give permission for students (on an individual or whole-class basis) to use personal devices in the classroom for a specified learning activity.
- Students may be permitted to use their personal device at the after school homework club in the Collaborative Learning Centre
- Students may be permitted to bring personal devices on a camp or excursion for learning purposes and/or to facilitate contact with their families at specified and supervised times. Expectations regarding student use of devices on the camp or excursion will be detailed in parent consent information.

All exemptions are subject to the device being used appropriately and only for the purpose specifically permitted by the teacher. Personal devices must be put ‘off and away’ immediately after the exempted activity has concluded, and not brought to future lessons/activities without explicit teacher permission.

Personalisation of Pouches

Students are required to have their name clearly written on their pouch in a suitable black waterproof marker. No other decorations, artwork or graffiti is allowed on the pouch. Students who do not follow this expectation will be required to purchase a new pouch and return the original pouch to the school.

Non Compliance

If a student does not comply they will be deemed in breach of the Department for Education’s Policy and dealt with through the Mount Gambier High School Behaviour Management process.

Supporting Information

- Department for Education “Student Use of Mobile Phones and Personal Devices Policy”
- Mount Gambier High School “Student Use of Mobile Phones and Personal Devices Policy”
- Mount Gambier High School “Behaviour Management Policy”
- ICT Acceptable User Agreement
- YONDR Pouches – Frequently Asked Questions

Evaluation and Review

This Implementation Plan will be reviewed at the end of Term 1, 2024 in consultation with relevant stakeholders at which time a Procedure will be developed.