

**Mobile Devices Policy 2022**

At the Men of Business (MOB) Academy, we place great value on high quality, innovative learning experiences which allow our young men to become increasingly resilient, self-directed and independent learners preparing them for work. This has led to a reconsideration of the ways in which we work with students in managing their access to mobile phones while at the academy during lesson times. This is also reinforced through the MOB Mindset.

At MOB Academy we accept that parents/carers may provide their young men with mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving security and safety. It is acknowledged that providing a student with a mobile phone gives parents/carers reassurance that they can contact their young man if they need to speak to them urgently, however during lesson times parents are reminded that in cases of emergency during the school day, the school MOB Academy phone number 0452 636 624 is the preferred point of contact and academy staff will ensure students are contacted quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.

Our expectation has always been that mobile phones are not used during lesson times but can be used before and after school, between lessons or at break times while at the academy. While most students have been happy to support this approach, the easy access to mobile phones during learning time has become a growing source of disruption and concern with the boys, teachers and mentors. During Term 1 this year we will trial the process below, which is intended to support the young men and teachers focusing more on quality learning experiences, improving resilience especially when tasks become challenging and less on unnecessary distractions.

**Principles of MOB Academy mobile devices policy**

1. Learning in the classroom should not be affected by electronic devices such as mobile phones.

2. Advice to students about the safe online practices and the possible consequences associated with inappropriate use of mobile devices are addressed through the MOB Life program.

3. The academy acknowledges that in certain situations, electronic devices such as cameras and mobile phones can be used as educational tools at the discretion of the classroom teacher.

4. The academy accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen, or damaged mobile phones



**How it works – “Put it in the Phone Zone”**

1. Students are directed to place personal phones in the Phone Zone as they enter the classroom. If they choose to keep their phone on them it must remain out of sight for the lesson.

2. Clear classroom expectations are established, revisited and clearly communicated in a respectful way regarding classroom entry and mobile phone storage.

3. Bluetooth wireless headphones or ear pieces may still be used at appropriate times and as directed by the classroom teacher or mentor while the phone is in the Phone zone. If students have hard wired headphones they may be able to use these at the teachers discretion.

4. In the event that a student is observed using a phone in the classroom after the lesson commences, they will receive one request from the classroom teacher to “Put it in the Phone Zone”. Teachers will use their best judgement to mitigate conflict over the device usage.

5. If the student is not willing to comply with the teacher’s requests to place the device in the Phone Zone and it is disrupting the classroom, the teacher will send the student to the Head of Wellness for follow up and a possible ‘phone strike’ in line with the Academy behaviour management process.

6. A phone strike will lead to contact with the student’s parents/carers and multiple phone strikes may lead to phone confiscation daily at the Academy administration. This will occur at the Head of Wellness and Head of Education’s discretion.

7. If mobile technology is used inappropriately to contact, film or harass students, staff or community members the device will be confiscated immediately, and parents/carers will be contacted to collect the device. Other solutions may be part of a strategy to assist to minimise a student’s consistent phone usage, again at the discretion of the Head of Wellness and Head of Education’s discretion.

It is hoped this will be avoided by a common sense and committed approach from both students and staff. As with everything at the Men of Business Academy our processes are built on mutual respect and trust so as to achieve the best outcome for all young men.

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