

## Mobile Phones and Devices in Classrooms

### Scope

The following policy is provided to guide the use of mobile telephones and other electronic devices throughout The Knox School.

### Definitions

**Self-regulation:** the ability to monitor and control our own behaviour, emotions, and thoughts; altering them with the demands of the situation. (Cook, J., Cook, G.: 2014)

### Policy

At The Knox School, we believe that:

- Classes are opportunities to learn and critical to this is the learning environment
- Everyone has the right to an optimal learning environment; we have a responsibility to exercise this right within the school's rules and as might be appropriate for the particular learning opportunity
- With this rights comes the right to be trusted as mature, disciplined, self-regulated learners; when this trust is broken we forfeit the privilege that it brings until we successfully rebuild this trust
- We learn how to learn through experience, guidance and expectation
- As our ability to self-regulate matures we will adopt preferences for managing our environment, time, study, and learning habits
- Our teachers have knowledge of how to learn developed through experience and education
- Our teachers have an understanding of the classroom environment that is conducive for their subject
- We have a responsibility not to impinge the learning of our peers by exercising our preferences
- In a classroom, our teachers establish and maintain the culture of the classroom: the learning environment

## Specific items

### Computers and devices:

Learning tools that students employ at the discretion of the teacher and as relevant to the particular learning opportunity. Students sign a responsible use policy and are required to abide by its expectations.

### Mobile phones:

Can serve as a learning tool; can also serve as a distraction. Of particular note is that the possibility to distract is not only generated by the user: notices, alerts and others can instigate distraction through the phone.

### Music:

Certain music can be conducive to learning of certain subject matter and in certain circumstances; can also be ill-suited to particular class settings.

## Summary

The teacher establishes and maintains the culture of the learning environment during class. In doing so, they respect the rights of each student as a self-regulated learner and trust students to exercise these rights appropriately until a student's actions breaks that trust through their actions. In this context, teachers establish when a computer, device, phone or music might be appropriate for use.

Until such time, the protocols for each specific item listed above are:

- Computers and devices remain switched off
- Mobile phones are to be secured in lockers or carried out of sight on a student's person. If a student elects to carry their phone with them into a classroom, it must be switched off or to silent (vibration alert function switched off as well) and only accessed upon teacher request.
- Music will be permitted to be listened to upon request and at the discretion of the teacher

In specific circumstances, such as during assessment, teachers will ask for students to surrender any devices to ensure the appropriate conditions for the task. If students misuse a device, phone or set of headphones, during an assessment task or at any time during a lesson, they have broken the trust provided. The teacher will confiscate the device, phone or headphones and give them to the student's Head of House (tutor at Year 7) for collection at the end of the day. Repeated behaviour will result in stronger action which may include discussion with parents.