

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mobile Device Policy

Introduction

As a community school, Kesser Torah College ('KTC') acknowledges there are varying views across the school community on whether primary-aged students should possess a Mobile Device. As a school, it is our responsibility to ensure the safety of all students whilst under our care.

In this context, KTC Primary has adopted the rules set out below about the use of Mobile Devices on the school grounds. This policy has been developed in line with our school ethos and mainstream research on Mobile Devices for primary-aged students.

For the purpose of this policy, the term 'Mobile Device' includes mobile phones and Smart Watches. Smart Watches include any watch that has the capacity to call, text, record, photograph or play games.

Although this policy applies to Mobile Devices at school, students are expected to always adhere to KTC standards of behaviour when using digital devices and the internet. Students need to understand that their use of all digital devices outside school fall under our other KTC policies, particularly the IT and Anti-Bullying Policies.

Mobile Devices on KTC Premises

1. Years K-2

Years K-2 students are not permitted to bring a Mobile Device of any kind to school.

2. Years 3-6

Students in Years 3-6 are permitted to bring a Mobile Device to school, provided:

- The student genuinely requires a Mobile Device for safety reasons related to travel to and from school.
- The Mobile Device will be **collected each morning** by the classroom teacher, to be **returned** to the student **at the end of the school day**.
- The school has been formally notified by the student's parents that he/she brings a Mobile Device to school via our online registration Mobile Device policy and registration form <https://forms.gle/7bnWMr7Fc1EUtNpp9>.
- The Mobile Device is not used on school premises at any time, including before and after the school day when the Mobile Device is in the possession of the student.

3. Other Mobile Devices, such as personal tablets and laptops, are not permitted at school unless express permission has been provided by the school, and for a pre-determined length of time only.

4. On occasion, students with additional needs may rely on the use of a Mobile Device and may be exempt from select rules. The provision of reasonable adjustments, such as use of a Mobile Device, will be established through a collaborative planning process with the school staff, parents, carers and student.

5. KTC accepts no responsibility for any damage to or the loss of a student's Mobile Device that has been brought to school.



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Consequences

1. If a student is found to be in possession of, or using, a Mobile Device in breach of this policy, the following process will be followed:
 - (a) The first time a student is in breach of this policy, the student's Mobile Device will be taken and stored for the remainder of the day.
 - (b) If a student is in breach of this policy a second time, the student's Mobile Device will be confiscated, and the student's parent will need to attend the school office to collect the phone. In addition, the student will be placed on the Green Behaviour level.
 - (c) If a student is in breach of this policy a third time, the student's mobile phone will be confiscated, and the student's parent will need to attend the school office to collect the phone. In addition, the student will not be permitted to bring a Mobile Device to school for five consecutive days and student will be placed on the Yellow Behaviour Level.
 - (d) If a student is in breach of this policy a fourth time, the student's phone will be confiscated, and the student's parents will need to attend a meeting with the Head of Primary Welfare or Head of Primary. The student will need to attend an after-school detention, will be placed on a Behaviour Monitoring book, and may be placed on the Orange Behaviour Level.
2. Records of all breaches of this policy will be recorded in the student's school record.
3. If the College becomes aware of inappropriate content on, or use of, a Mobile Device, the College may have the right to examine the content or records on the Mobile Device. The College may also be obliged to take disciplinary action and/or report the content to external agencies.

Communication between students and parents during school hours

1. If a parent or other family member needs to contact a student during the school day, the family member should call reception at 9301 1100, who will then communicate the message.
2. If a student needs to contact a parent during the school day, the student should approach their class teacher or reception who will consider the need to make the phone call. If required, reception will call the parent on behalf of the student.

Understanding the Policy

All parents are required to acknowledge that they have read and discussed the Mobile Device Policy with their children and that they will comply with the stated rules via our online Mobile Device Policy and registration form <https://forms.gle/7bnWMr7Fc1EUtNpp9>.

Advice for Parents

If a parent is considering purchasing a Mobile Device for their child, we encourage parents to:

- Only provide a Mobile Device if required for safety reasons
- Provide a Mobile Device that does not possess internet capabilities
- Educate your child on appropriate Mobile Device use
- Set up age-appropriate boundaries

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If a child already has a Smart Device, we advise parents to ensure effective filters and monitoring platforms have been installed on the device and that you discuss and determine safe and age-appropriate online use, boundaries and strategies with your child.

For more information and resources on Mobile Device use and eSafety, we encourage parents to visit our Cyber Safety Hub at <https://kessertorah.onlinesafetyhub.com.au>.

Questions

If any student or parent has questions about these rules, please contact the Primary Head of Welfare or the Head of Primary.