



CAMBERWELL GIRLS SMART DEVICES POLICY SNAPSHOT

Introduction

With the Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Bill (2024) coming into effect on December 10 2025, the School is taking the opportunity to strengthen its existing approach to the use of mobile phones, and other smart devices, including learning devices, smart watches and headphones. In 2026, we will be introducing an updated Smart Devices policy which continues to prioritise student wellbeing and the intentional use of technology while on campus.

School Expectations

Strengthening and expanding our existing approach on mobile phones, to address and include more smart technologies, **from the commencement of the 2026 school year:**

- **Mobile phones** and other non-learning devices **must be stored in lockers or school bags** (where appropriate) while on campus.
- **Smart watches must be turned to flight-mode** during the school day.
- During recess and lunch, learning devices are only able to be used in the library (not in open spaces).
- In class, the use of **headphones and mobile phones may only** occur when instructed by and **under the direct supervision of a teacher**.
- **Mobile phones and smart watches cannot be used for payment** at the Fig Tree Café.

Notes

- **Medical and Learning Exemptions** - Smart Device Passes will be available for students who require a specific device for a medical or learning need.
- **Private Study** - Students may use headphones to complete private study in the library before or after school, or during study periods.
- **Years 11 and 12 Students** - may use their learning device and headphones in the Fig Tree Café or Quad during study periods. Year 12 students can use their mobile phone in the Common Room.
- **Breeches of Policy** - if a student is not following the rules, they must hand in their smart device to Student Services to be collected at the end of the school day. Further breeches will result more significant consequences.

More information?

We will continue to keep our community informed and engaged in this topic through The Weekly and CamNews.

Implementation of Policy

There are a number of stages to the implementation of this policy:

March - October 2025

- Draft policy developed by the Educational Leadership Team
- Staff feedback sought

November 2025

- Parents/Guardians have the opportunity to provide feedback. Please email the Head of School's Office.
- The Student Representative Council (SRC) is currently reviewing the policy on behalf of the student body.

Student Consultation and Q & A from Week 9

- Students will have the opportunity to engage in (optional) workshops on understanding the law and what it means for them, discussing topics such as communicating without social media, data preservation and the intentional use of technology.
- Year Level Coordinators will also go over the final policy with students to ensure they understand the changes to the existing policy.

December 10 2025

Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Bill (2024) comes into effect

Term 1 2026

- Revised Smart Devices Policy implemented.

How can families best prepare for these changes?

- **Discussion and conversation** - talk to your child about the incoming changes and why they are important.
- **Set device boundaries at home** - to support healthy device use such as having spaces or periods of time that are 'device-free'.
- **Explore resources from the eSafety Commissioner** for practical tips and free webinars.
- **Review the draft of the Smart Devices Policy** and let us know your thoughts. Please email any feedback to:

Secondary School - secondaryschool-pa@cggs.vic.edu.au

Junior School - juniorschool-pa@cggs.vic.edu.au