Smart Glasses and Covert Filming Devices Policy



Help for non-English speakers Interpreting and Translation Services.

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Whittlesea Secondary College General Office Ph. (03) 9719-1200.

Purpose

This policy sets the restrictions on wearing or using smart glasses and covert filming devices on Whittlesea Secondary College premises and at College-organised events and activities. The restrictions support safe, respectful, secure and effective learning environments and apply to students, staff, parents, carers, contractors, volunteers and other visitors.

Commencement and policy authority

A ban on smart glasses in Victorian government schools was announced on 20 October 2026 and takes effect from 27 January 2027. This is a Ministerial policy issued by the Minister for Education under section 5.2.1(2)(b) of the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic). It also sets requirements for student use of smart glasses under clauses 11(2) and 12 of Ministerial Order No. 1515 – Personal Electronic Devices in Victorian Schools (Ministerial Order 1515).

For further advice about Ministerial Order 1515, refer to Mobile Phones and Personal Electronic Devices – Student Use.

Scope

This policy applies to all people on Whittlesea Secondary College premises at any time, and to all people attending offsite College-organised events or activities. It applies during and outside the school day and school term, including camps, excursions, performances and sporting events.

Definitions

Covert filming devices

A compact, wearable tool disguised as an everyday accessory to secretly record images or video data. This includes smart glasses, wearable or clothing-integrated micro cameras, and any other compact tool disguised as an everyday accessory to secretly record images or video data.

College-organised events and activities

Any activity, program or event led and organised by Whittlesea Secondary College, whether it takes place on or off College premises, during or outside the school day or term. Examples include camps and excursions, sporting events, performances, College-organised student social events such as formals or discos, fetes and fundraising events, ceremonies, assemblies, School Council meetings and other College-run meetings.

Smart glasses

A device designed to be worn as spectacles that can send, receive, store, record or process digital information.

How to identify smart glasses

Smart glasses can look like ordinary eyewear, but there are usually some common features including:

- extra thickness on one or both sides of the temple
- removable looking panels
- clusters of tiny holes
- bulges near the hinge or behind the ear
- tiny dot elements near the outer corners of frame
- unusual shapes near the nose bridge
- indicator lights on the front or temple
- faint audio that might be heard
- beeps or tones upon touch.

Common behaviours for smart glasses use include:

- tapping or swiping the frame or lens, or repeatedly on the same spot
- swipes along the temple area
- micro pauses that look like reading or waiting for a response.

Schools are not required to screen or monitor people for use of smart glasses or covert filming devices. However, if staff, students or parents/carers are concerned that a breach of this policy is occurring, they should speak with the principal in the first instance.

Principals should follow the advice in this policy to manage any potential breach.

Policy requirements

- Smart glasses and covert filming devices **must not be worn or used** on College premises or at College-organised events or activities, including offsite events.
- Prohibited devices include smart glasses, wearable or clothing-integrated micro cameras, and any compact tool disguised as an everyday accessory to secretly record images or video.
- A person who brings a prohibited device onsite or to an offsite College-organised event must switch it off and securely store it for the time they are there.
- An exemption for smart glasses may be granted only as a reasonable adjustment for a person with disability, such as a person with vision impairment, where the adjustment cannot reasonably be achieved through another device or approach and the request is supported by evidence.

Policy rationale

All Whittlesea Secondary College community members share responsibility for keeping children safe. Smart glasses and covert filming devices can record people and their surroundings without their knowledge or consent. It can be difficult to tell when smart glasses are being worn or recording, and recording indicators such as lights may be disabled or covered.

Some smart glasses can livestream footage, be tracked by other devices, and store location and time information linked to recordings. This can create personal safety risks for students and staff. Smart glasses and some covert filming devices can connect users to AI assistants and other information, and may be vulnerable to hacking that could expose captured information.

Because smart glasses can closely resemble ordinary eyewear, the visible cues relied on in traditional physical child-safety practice are reduced. A person holding a phone or camera provides a visible indication that filming may be occurring; wearable covert devices may remove that cue. Restricting these devices supports compliance with Child Safe Standard 9: Keeping children safe in physical and online environments in schools.

Implementing the ban

If any person is wearing or using smart glasses or a covert filming device in breach of this policy, College staff must explain the restriction and ask the person to remove the device and securely store it.

Staff must also:

- request details of how long the person has worn the device on College premises or at the event or activity, and whether any recordings were made;
- remind the person of this policy, including how to seek an exemption where smart glasses are requested as a reasonable adjustment for a person with disability; and
- report the incident to the Department's Incident Support and Operations Centre (ISOC) if there are concerns that students or staff have been recorded in a way that might compromise their privacy or safety.

If a student refuses an instruction to remove and securely store smart glasses, Whittlesea Secondary College may apply behavioural consequences under its existing Student Wellbeing and Engagement policies.

If a person other than a student refuses to remove and securely store their smart glasses, the Principal or delegate may ask them to leave the College premises or the offsite College-organised event or activity. *Schools are not public places, and visitors must comply with this policy.*

If a person refuses to leave the grounds, the Principal may refer to the Department's Trespass policy to manage the situation.

Third-party use of College premises

The ban always applies on Whittlesea Secondary College premises, including outside school hours and on weekends. When the College has a hire, licence or joint-use arrangement with a third-party organisation or business, the organisation must be made aware of the ban and ensure its staff, volunteers and event attendees are also informed.

Third-party organisations and businesses are responsible for managing issues, including exemption requests, connected with events or activities they run on College premises. The College is not required to enforce the ban outside its own operations.

For further information, refer to Community Use of Schools – Hiring and Licensing.

Communication

Whittlesea Secondary College will share this policy and the restriction on smart glasses and covert filming devices with the College community. Information will be made available:

- to students, parents, carers, volunteers, contractors and visitors through the College website;
- to staff through the staff handbook and induction materials.

Exemptions

For some people with disability, smart glasses can provide a meaningful accessibility benefit. The Principal or Assistant Principal may grant an exemption for a student, staff member or visitor to use smart glasses in limited circumstances. An exemption may be granted only where:

- the use provides a reasonable adjustment for a person with disability, for example, a person with vision impairment;
- the adjustment cannot reasonably be provided by another device or approach; and
- the request is supported by evidence.

Before granting an exemption, the decision-maker must consider:

- the proposed use of smart glasses;
- whether smart glasses are the only adjustment that can meet the person's needs, including whether other assistive technology is available;
- the risks associated with the proposed use, including child safety, privacy and data security risks; and
- what safeguards could manage identified risks if an exemption is granted, and whether those safeguards would adequately address the risks.

If an exemption is granted, the Principal must document in writing the permitted uses and any conditions or restrictions, including the period for which the exemption applies.

Related policies

- Child Safe Standards
- Community Use of Schools – Hiring and Licensing
- Managing and Reporting School Incidents (Including Emergencies)
- Mobile Phones and Personal Electronic Devices – Student Use
- Photographing, Filming and Recording Staff and Other Adults
- Photographing, Filming and Recording Students
- Privacy and Information Sharing
- Weapons and Other Harmful Items – Banning, Searching and Seizing

Relevant legislation

- Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic)
- Surveillance Devices Act 1999 (Vic)

Ministerial Order No. 1515 – Personal Electronic Devices in Victorian Schools.

Policy review and approval

Policy last reviewed	October 2026
Consultation	Consultative Committee, School Council, Leadership
Policy approved	Principal
Next scheduled review date	October 2027