

# COMMUNICATION POLICY

## HAWKER COLLEGE

### OVERVIEW

It is very important to us that we work closely in partnership with parents and carers, and communication between home and school is key. We recognise however that it can often be difficult communicating with teachers because they have a very full timetable; and we recognise that parents and carers also have very busy lives.

### CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

Communication by email is the preferred method. Email addresses can be found on the Contact Us page on our website [www.hawker.act.edu.au/contact](http://www.hawker.act.edu.au/contact).

Teachers want to respond to parent queries at the earliest opportunity and will do their best to do so, however, the majority of teachers' time is taken up teaching and preparing for lessons. Teachers' responsibilities extend beyond the classroom, and they may be unable to respond to you on the day a query is made. We have also agreed with staff that there is no expectation to respond to queries during their personal/family time.

### TELEPHONE

Please use the main Front Office number, 6142 0355, to leave a message for a teacher to contact you:

- > Front Office staff will relay messages to teachers as soon as possible.
- > If a call is urgent, please inform the staff member who will attempt to find a senior member of staff to speak to you.
- > We will try to respond to you within three working days, if not sooner.
- > Please note, lessons will never be interrupted for teachers to take calls.

### EMAIL

Please use staff email addresses if you need to contact staff directly:

- > Teachers are not in a position to check emails consistently throughout the day and the school does not expect work email to be checked during a teacher's personal time.
- > We aim to respond to you as soon as possible and within three working days. Part-time staff may take longer to reply.

### MEETINGS

The wellbeing and safety of your young person is managed by the staff they are working closely with.

- > In the first instance, please approach the following members of staff who are responsible for your young person in the following order:
  1. Classroom Teacher, if the query is relevant to a specific subject, or the relevant Year Coordinator if the query is wellbeing related. Appointments can be made with any of the Student Services team via [careers@hawker.act.edu.au](mailto:careers@hawker.act.edu.au).

2. Faculty School Leader, if the query is relevant to a specific subject or Student Services School Leader if the query is wellbeing related.
  3. Deputy Principal
  4. Principal
- > Meetings should always be pre-arranged with members of staff.
  - > If you urgently need to see someone, for instance if there is a serious family emergency or a youth protection issue, please phone ahead and the Front Office staff will do their best to find a senior member of staff to see you.
  - > For non-urgent meetings we will aim to meet with you within five working days. The school will determine the level of urgency at its discretion, to enable it to manage multiple demands.

## CONTACTING YOU

Our preferred method of contacting you is via email or SMS through our Student Administration System (SAS).

The school also provides a range of opportunities to share information about students' learning and progress throughout the year, including Meet the Teacher evening, individual learning plan meetings (select students), newsletters, mid semester progress reports, semester reports, parent-teacher interviews, PAE (Participation and Engagement) Tool and the Parent Portal.

If our teachers identify any concerns about a student's learning or behaviour, or have other matters that need to be discussed, they will contact you as soon as possible.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

We use our social media platforms to promote student and college achievements and share what is happening in our classrooms and the wider education community. This information can also be found on our school website link. You can find our Facebook and Instagram accounts by searching [www.facebook.com/HawkerCollege/](https://www.facebook.com/HawkerCollege/) and [www.instagram.com/hawkercollege](https://www.instagram.com/hawkercollege).

## NO RESPONSE

If you have not received a response from the school within three working days, please contact the school by emailing [info@hawker.act.edu.au](mailto:info@hawker.act.edu.au) and we will chase up your enquiry. Communication with parents and carers is important to us, and we will continue to monitor this policy and our approach to improve the process further.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>School Front Office</b>	Ph: 6142 0355
<b>School Website</b>	<a href="https://www.hawker.act.edu.au/">https://www.hawker.act.edu.au/</a>
<b>ACT Education Directorate Website</b>	<a href="http://www.education.act.gov.au">www.education.act.gov.au</a>
<b>Feedback and Complaints</b>	Ph: 6205 5429 <a href="http://www.education.act.gov.au/support-for-our-students/complaints-feedback-and-enquiries">www.education.act.gov.au/support-for-our-students/complaints-feedback-and-enquiries</a>