

Primary student use of mobile phones and personal devices

Purpose

This policy provides direction to students, staff and families about managing mobile phones and other digital devices that students choose to bring to school. Digital devices include, but are not limited to, smartwatches, tablets or laptops that are not part of a separate Bring Your Own Device arrangement. This policy applies while students are at school, or attending an authorised school activity such as an excursion, during school hours.

Mobile phone use for primary school students

The department's position is that primary aged students cannot use their mobile phones and personal devices at school during school hours. The department and the school recognise that there are legitimate reasons for students to bring a mobile phone or personal device to school. This may include:

- to ensure their safety while travelling
- so that parents can contact them outside of school hours

During the school day students are not permitted to access or use their mobile phones or other personal devices. Students must switch off or mute their devices before storing them at the beginning of the school day. They will not be able to access their device until the end of the school day.

Storage of personal devices

Students are not to have mobile communication devices in their possession whilst on school grounds during school hours (8:30am – 3:00 pm) or on an excursion or camp. Such devices must be put on silent or switched off and handed in and will be stored in a secure location in the front office. At the end of the day students are able to collect their mobiles. Mobiles will not be allowed to be used while on school site unless to communicate with their parents/caregivers if necessary.

If the student does not comply

- We will follow the school's steps with our Behaviour Education Policy of non-compliance.
- The mobile device may be confiscated as a reasonable consequence for non-compliance, then the student's device will be securely stored and will be returned to the student after a phone call home or given directly to the parent/caregiver.

Roles and responsibilities

Principal

Make sure:

- the policy will be clearly communicated and accessible to all students, staff, and families through newsletter and website
- policy to be reviewed every two years.
- secure storage is provided for student personal devices that are handed in to school staff
- processes are in place for monitoring internet and school
- network use by all members of the school community.

Enforce the policy and respond to incidents of non-compliance.

Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.

Consider requests for exemptions from the policy from parents on a case-by-case basis. Make sure that approved exemptions are documented and that relevant staff are informed about students' exemptions.

Model appropriate use of personal devices and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of personal devices to their children.



School staff

Deliver learning opportunities and maintain a safe and productive learning environment. Take steps to minimise distractions from the non-educational use of personal devices in the learning environment at times when a device is being used by a student in line with an approved exemption or in circumstances where students' devices are stored in the classroom.

Respond to incidents of non-compliance in line with the school's policy.

Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.

Make sure that any student personal devices handed in for their care are stored in a secure location and are returned to the student (or their parent/caregiver).

Model appropriate use of personal devices and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of personal devices to their children.

Students

Comply with the requirements of the school's policy and follow all reasonable directions from the Principal and school staff.

If permitted to use a mobile phone or personal device in line with an exemption under this policy, do so in a safe, responsible and respectful way and support peers to do the same.

Communicate respectfully with others and do not use a mobile phone or other personal device to bully, harass or threaten another person.

Respect others' rights to privacy and do not take photos, film or audio records of other people without their knowledge or permission.

Parents/caregivers

Support the implementation of the school's policy, including the consequences for non-compliance with the policy.

Use the school's formal communication channels in all instances to communicate with the school (including where a student requires early collection from school). Encourage their child to always report to a school staff member in the first instance if they become unwell or experience an issue at school.

Recognise the important role they play in supporting their child to use their mobile phone (or other personal device) in a safe, responsible and respectful way.

Communication and review

Next review date: May, 2023

Supporting information

Please visit <http://www.othc7.sa.edu.au> to view our

- Behaviour Education
- Anti-Bullying policy
- ICT user agreements