



Students' use of Mobile Phones in Schools Management Plan

Rationale and Objectives

Tumbarumba High School supports the restrictions of mobile phones in accordance with the NSW Department of Education: Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools policy <https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-management-schools/student-use-of-mobile-phones>.

Mobile phone use in schools can impact student learning and wellbeing. Restricting mobile phone use at school aims to increase focus in classrooms, remove distractions and promote positive social interaction, while reducing the potential for online bullying. Tumbarumba High School has strong teaching and learning practices to support students in the classroom using various forms of appropriate technology, which maximises the benefits and minimises the risks of digital environments and prepare students for life beyond school. We foster a safe learning environment which supports and enhances each child's social and emotional health through our wellbeing and learning support teams.

Tumbarumba High School has elected to use the following approach. All mobile phones will be 'off and away' for the full school day, including recess and lunch once students are within the confines of the school grounds. This will mean that students will have a responsibility to turn off their phone and store it safely in either their school bag or locker for the course of the school day. This is an approved NSW Department of Education option and will limit unnecessary distractions and complement our ongoing approach to ensure every student maximises his or her learning and social growth in a safe and supportive environment.

Exemptions

Tumbarumba High School understands there may be students who have a medical, wellbeing or learning need which will require them to access a mobile phone as defined in this plan. In this instance, the Principal and/or Deputy Principal will meet with each student and their parents or carer(s). The Learning and Support Teacher may also ascertain the need for a mobile device through contact with parents and carers in order to determine where an exemption will be applied for, on behalf of a student, as well as the adjustments to any school-based practices and procedures. A separate mobile phone exempted use application form can be obtained from the school and school website. Sections A, B and C will need to be completed for an exemption to be considered and then granted.

Contacting students

Tumbarumba High School understands there will always be emergencies when parents need to get in contact with students or vice versa during the school day. We try to keep this to a minimum, with the exception of emergencies, to avoid disturbing the students' learning. Parents and carers can make contact with the school through the school office, (02) 69482500 and students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office if required.

Procedure

Mobile phones and other non-educational electronic devices are **banned** from usage within the school premises which includes classrooms, playgrounds and corridors. Prior to entering the school grounds all mobile phones and non-educational electronic devices must be switched off and out of sight. This includes all wired and unwired headphones and speakers.

Medical exceptions (e.g. diabetes monitoring) may apply through the completion and acceptance of a Mobile Phone Exempted Use Application Form.

We prefer that students do not have their mobile phones and electronic devices at school. However, we realise that students may be in possession of mobile phones and electronic devices for a variety of reasons and therefore the school has adopted the following policy.

- Students are to be discouraged from bringing mobile phones and electronic devices to school;
- There may be occasions where students are permitted to use their mobile phone or electronic device. This will be at the discretion of the class teacher and for specific educational purposes only (e.g. capturing progress images of major works in IT Timber and Visual Arts).
- Mobile phones and electronic devices must remain switched off all day and secured in either a student's bag or a locker.
- Students who have their mobile phone or electronic device out will receive the following consequences:
 - **Device seen or heard (1st occasion)** – mobile phone or electronic device will be confiscated by staff and placed in the school safe; parent/carer will be notified, the phone will only be released to the parent/carer. Incident will be recorded in Sentral.
 - **Device seen or heard (2nd occasion)** – mobile phone or electronic device will be confiscated by staff and placed in the school safe; parent/carer will be notified, the phone will only be released to the parent/carer and student will be placed on a Formal Monitoring Card. Incident will be recorded in Sentral.
 - **Failure to comply or repeated offences** – mobile phone or electronic device will be confiscated by staff; parent/carer will be notified, and the phone will only be released to the parent/carer. The student will be placed on a Formal Monitoring Card, issued with a Formal Caution of Suspension and may be at risk of suspension for persistent disobedience. Incident will be recorded in Sentral.
- The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones and electronic devices that are brought to school and **will not** investigate their loss or theft. It is an expectation that mobile phones and electronic devices are stored in lockers or bags.
- Parents are requested to not contact student mobile phones during the school day.
- Where parents/caregivers need to contact their child during the school day, they are requested to contact the school's front office on (02) 69482500, and the school will assist in the most appropriate way.