

*For the purposes of this policy, 'mobile phones' includes smart watches and devices, and associated listening accessories, such as, but not limited to, headphones and ear pods.*

## **Rationale**

It is acknowledged that when used effectively as a tool to enhance learning, mobile phones can play an important role in education. A ban on their use, however, when not in direct support of education, will ensure that schools can provide a safe and productive learning environment for students in their care. The decision to ban the use of mobile phones in schools is intended to remove the potential learning distraction for students, protect the privacy of staff and students, improve social connections at school and improve the health and wellbeing of students. While it is recognised that cyber-bullying mainly occurs outside school time, banning the use of mobile phones will allow students to better engage with their learning and with their peers, without the pressure felt when needing to respond to a mobile phone.

Schools are, and will continue to be, committed to the education of students, staff and their school community in the responsible and acceptable use of mobile phones.

There is no requirement for students to have a mobile phone at school. However, for security and safety purposes to and from school, some parents/carers have supplied their child with a mobile phone.

## **Policy**

*As a minimum requirement, schools will implement a ban on the use of mobile phones for all students from the time they arrive at school to the conclusion of the school day, unless under the instruction of a teacher or staff member. Mobile phones should be 'off and away all day'. This includes before school and at break times. All smart watches must be on 'airplane mode' so phone calls and messages cannot be sent or received during the school day.*

*Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 are not permitted to have mobile phones in their possession during the school day. If a student brings a mobile phone to school, an appropriate storage approach or location will be determined by the school.*

*Students from Year 7 to 12 are permitted to be in possession of their mobile phone during the school day. However, mobile phones must be turned off and neither seen nor heard.*

- Exemptions to this include: where a student needs to monitor a health condition as part of a documented health care plan approved by the school principal (or delegate); or under the direct instruction of a teacher for educational purposes; or with permission of a teacher for a specified purpose.
- Breaches of this policy will be managed in accordance with the school's behaviour management procedures and the Director General Directive on *Action to be taken with students fighting or publishing videos of fighting*. This may include, but not be limited to; confiscation (multiple offences may require collection by a parent/carer) or loss of good standing.
- Schools may choose, in consultation with the school community, to maintain or introduce a mobile phone policy that imposes further restrictions than those set out in this policy e.g. Year 7 to 12 students are not permitted to have mobile phones in their possession during the school day.
- All communication between parents and students, during school hours, should occur via the school's administration.