

Acceptable Use Policy - Mobile Phones

Josh Webb - Principal



The NSW Government has announced restrictions on the use of mobile phones in NSW high schools beginning in Term 4, 2023.

1 Purpose

1.1 The widespread ownership of mobile phones among young people requires that parents, students, schools and teachers take steps to ensure that they are used responsibly at school, excursions, and during co-curricular activities. This Acceptable Use Policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving mobile phones can be clearly identified and addressed but allowing the benefits that mobile phones may provide. It is noted to all that mobile phones are brought to school at the own risk of students and Oaklands Central School takes no responsibility for damage to mobile phones.

1.2 Oaklands Central School has established an Acceptable Use Policy for Mobile Phones that provides teachers, students and parents with guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of mobile phones at school.

1.3 Students and their parents/carers should understand the Acceptable Use Policy for Mobile Phones so students are clear on the permitted use and consequences of misuse of mobile phones in school. This policy applies to students visiting our school.

2 Rationale

2.1 Oaklands Central School accepts that parents give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal safety and security. It is acknowledged that providing a student with a mobile phone gives parents/caters reassurance they can contact their child if they need to speak with them urgently outside of school hours (before 8.30am after 3.25pm), especially during travel to and from the school.

2.2 Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency during the school day the office remains the point of contact and school staff will ensure students are contacted quickly and assisted in the appropriate way. **Please do not contact your child/guardian by mobile phone between the hours of 8.30am and 3.25pm.**

3 Responsibility

3.1 It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile phones to school to abide by the guidelines outlined in this document.

3.2 Students are responsible for bringing money or a physical EFTPOS card if access to funds are required during school hours.

4 Acceptable Uses

4.1 Mobile phones may be used after school (in accordance with Section 5)

4.2 Mobile phones may not be used and/or seen anytime between 8.30am to 3.25pm at school.

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4.3 Students must hand in their mobile phone to the office or leave it at home. Phones will be stored in individually named pencil cases.

4.4 In an emergency a student can inform a staff member of they need to use a phone and they must present to the Office to do this.

4.5 Students are not permitted use of their phones whilst being transported to and from TAFE.

4.6 Mobile Phones are not to be used on excursions. Exemptions may be made for certain school excursions. Information will be included in the excursion information and permission form.

5 Unacceptable Uses

5.1 Mobile phones must not be used or seen at anytime during the school day (8.30am - 3.25pm)

5.2 As with all forms of bullying or harassment, using mobile phones and/or smart watches to communicate with other students for this purpose is at odds with our school values and will not be tolerated. It is a criminal offense to use a mobile phone and/or smart watches to menace, offend another person or document illegal activities. In such cases the issue will be referred to Police or the Child Wellbeing unit for further advice.

5.3 Mobile phones and/or smart watches may not be used during an exam or assessment. This will be considered cheating and the student will face sanction.

6 Consequences

6.1 Students who do not meet the expectations in this policy will be subject to the consequences detailed within.

6.2 Mobile phones seen between 8.30am and 3.25pm will result in the student being asked to present the mobile phone to the office. These will be stored for the day and can be collected at the end of the school day - after a First Offence. Repeat offenders: Second Offence - the phone will need to be collected by a parent/carer. Third Offence - the student will need to leave their phone at home or present it to the office each day upon arrival and collect it at the end of the school day, for a time frame determined by the Executive.

6.3 Continued refusal to comply with the mobile phone policy may result in suspension.

7 Phone Protection

7.1 The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged phones. When a phone offence occurs, they will be stored in the office in a named pencil case.

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8 Process for misuse of mobile phones and breach of policy

Phone out between 8.30am and 3.25pm

- First Offence - Student hands the phone into the office and collects at 3.25pm. Staff will record the incident in Sentral
- Second Offence - Student hands the phone into the office and a parent/carer is contacted to collect the phone at 3.25pm, or when available. Staff will record the incident in Sentral
- Third Offence - Parent/carer to collect the phone at 3.25pm, or when available and the student will be placed on a phone plan. (Phone to be left at home or handed into office upon arrival at school and collected at 3.25pm) Executive will decide the time frame. Staff will record the incident in Sentral
- Fourth Offence - Decision will be made by the Executive as to the consequence, which may include a long phone plan and/or suspension. Staff will record the incident in Sentral

Refusal to take phone to the office

- Teacher informs Executive.
- Decision made by Executive on context to escalate to Second, Third or Fourth offence.
- Executive to follow up with parent/carer regarding consequences
- Incident will be recorded in Sentral

NOTE: This policy can be changed at the discretion of the Principal at any time.