

Student use of mobile phones and personal devices

Purpose

This policy provides direction to students, staff and families about managing personal 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, camp or extra-curricular activities during school hours.

The widespread ownership of mobile phones and Personal Digital Devices (PDD) among young people requires that school administrators, teachers, students, and parents take steps to ensure that they are used responsibly.

Mobile phone use for secondary school students

Our school recognises 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.

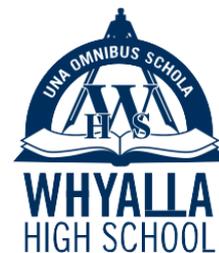
These devices can have many positive uses but if used inappropriately in an educational environment, can adversely affect the core business of teaching and learning as well as student and staff wellbeing. In particular, mobile phones have some inherent social dangers and there are possible legal implications if used inappropriately.

Mobile phone use is not allowed during lesson time. Smart watches must also be disconnected during lesson time. This includes the time moving to or between lessons.

In the school grounds during recess and lunch breaks, PDD and mobile phones may be used provided they do not cause embarrassment or harm to fellow students, staff or visitors to the school.

Excursions and camps are an extension of classroom lesson time with a learning situation taking place. Digital devices may be used as directed by the teacher. Access to all forms of social media on a school camp or excursion is prohibited. This will result in a suspension.

Whyalla High School accepts that parents give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child on the way to and from school. Parents are reminded the school office remains the primary point of contact and ensures your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way. Due to our duty of care role, parents must contact the school before a child can be permitted to leave.



Storage of personal devices

All digital devices and mobile phones are either to be switched off or in silent mode and kept out of sight in the student's school bag or in the phone container provided in all classes so as not to be disruptive in any learning environment at Whyalla High School.

Mobile phones and PDD that are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to front office reception or student services.

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged electronic devices either at school or while travelling to and from school.

If the student does not comply

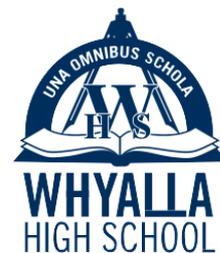
Students using a mobile phone or PDD inappropriately will face disciplinary action as sanctioned by the Principal in accordance with the school's behaviour code. In any instance where a criminal offence is committed, the Principal is bound by law to involve the police.

Students who infringe the guidelines set out in this document face having their phones or PDD's confiscated by teachers. The device will be taken to a secure place within the school and the student's parent/carer informed. Appropriate arrangements would be made for the student or parents to collect it. Permission to view the contents of the phone may be sought from parents where appropriate. Infringements may result in the withdrawal of the agreement to allow the student to bring their mobile telephone or PDD to school.

Roles and responsibilities

Principal

- Make sure:
 - this policy is clearly communicated and accessible to all students, staff and families
 - there is a process for regular review of the policy
- Enforce the school's policy and responses to instances 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 school policy from parents, adult or independent students 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 mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones 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.
- Respond to instances 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).
- Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones 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 this policy, do so in a safe, responsible and respectful way and support peers to do the same.
- As mobile phones and PDD, have personal recording, storage and transmission capacities, students must apply care and forethought to avoid antisocial and illegal use.
- Communicate respectfully with others using a mobile phone or personal device and do not engage in anti-social behaviour to bully, harass or threaten another person as it is a criminal offence.
- Respect others' rights to privacy and do not take photos, film or audio records of other people without their knowledge or permission.
- Mobile phones and PDD are not to be used to record, store or transmit offensive material, including offensive ring tones.
- Possession and/or sharing of offensive or pornographic material via a mobile phone or PDD is a criminal offence and will be reported to Police.
- Mobile phone and PDD audible sounds or music must not be disruptive to anyone in the school environment.

Parents

- 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.