



Arthur Phillip High School

Mobile Phones & Electronic Devices Policy

Last Revision

Date: September 2023

By: Peter Murkins

This policy replaces *Mobile Device Policy 2023* and
Personal Devices Policy 2023

2023

Preamble

Mobile phones, smart phones & watches, MP3 players, tablets and similar devices are a part of modern society and the school accepts that many students will possess them. However, their application and relevance to learning are limited. Teachers and students have a right to teach and to learn in a classroom environment that is free from interruption by such devices and where learning is valued.

Personal electronic devices in schools, present a number of challenges. These include:

- Devices which interrupt lessons and distracts and disrupts learning
- Theft
- Mobile phones being used to contact outsiders who may enter the school illegally
- Devices disrupting examinations and assessment tasks and distracting fellow students
- Mobile phones used as a means of bullying other students
- Devices used to film or photograph teachers and other students, which is a breach of privacy and a crime
- Devices being used to film fights. Such footage may then appear on the internet thus affecting the reputation of the school and those filming such events often contribute to the fight occurring in order to film it
- The right of teachers to make educationally sound judgements on the appropriate and safe use of such devices in their classroom.

Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with the NSW Department of Education's '**Students Use of Mobile Phones in Schools**' Policy, '**Student Use of Digital Devices and Online Services**' Policy and other relevant departmental policies.

The term "mobile phone" in this policy refers to a personal mobile phone, or any device capable of communicating independent of the school's network (e.g. Smart Watch, SIM capable devices, etc).

Arthur Phillip High School staff prefer that students not bring personal electronic devices to school. If students do choose to bring such devices, it is important to note:

- The school accepts no responsibility for those devices that are brought to school and undertakes no responsibility to investigate their misplacement, loss or theft.
- As per NSW Government policy, '*Students are not allowed to use mobile phones at school, including during recess and lunch.*' **Mobile phones** (or any other device capable of communicating independent of the school's network) **are not to be used on APHS school grounds**. They are to be turned off and locked in the personal mobile device locker provided to each student, for the entire school day.
- **Mobile Phones cannot used as a payment system at the school canteen.**
- Should a student be found to have a mobile phone (or similarly capable communication device) on their person during the day, it will be confiscated and locked in the school safe. Student's parents/carers will be contacted and the **device returned to a parent/carers at an appropriate time.**

- Our policy for all other personal electronic devices is that the authority to permit their use rests with the classroom teacher. The devices will only be allowed when the technology is directly linked to the learning outcomes of the lesson.
- Personal electronic devices are not to be used as a musical device, timepiece, calculator or personal organiser during class time without the express permission of their teacher for that lesson. If a student uses it, it will be confiscated and secured with a Deputy Principal or Executive staff member until the end of the day (**in the case of a mobile phone, this will only be returned to a parent/carer**).
- Mobile Phones and personal electronic devices are not to be used on excursions or extra-curricular activities, including travel to and from venues. In some circumstances permission may be granted in advance by the teacher in charge, which will be indicated on the excursion note sent to parents/carers before the activity takes place.
- It is expected that students will follow the STRIVE code and be respectful if and when their devices are confiscated. Any student who causes a disruption will be followed up with appropriate disciplinary action from an Executive member of the school staff.
- **Earphones and head phones** are included as part of this ban. Students must not use these from 8:45am to 3:05pm unless granted permission by the classroom teacher for a learning activity. This will be confiscated and may be returned to the student at the end of the day.

Student infractions using personal electronic devices will be recorded and closely monitored. Ongoing infractions will be managed using the NSW DoE Student Behaviour Code and Procedures K-12.

- For excursions and other extra-curricular activities personal electronic devices are not to be used without the permission of the teacher in charge. This includes using them on buses travelling to and from venues.

In Addition

- Teachers in the Support Unit will use electronic devices as they see appropriate to support the learning outcomes of their students.
- Where parents need to contact their children urgently during the school day, they are to use the school's telephone number on (02) 8855 8100. Urgent messages will be delivered to students promptly.

Exemptions

Arthur Phillip 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. Parents/carers and students wishing to apply for an exemption will need to make a written application to the Principal outlining the main reasons for the request, and providing appropriate supporting documentation.

Mobile Phones – Key points

1. Student Responsibilities

1.1 Students are responsible for securing their mobile phone in their allocated locker at the beginning of the school day, and removing it at the end of the day.

1.2 The locker will be located on their home level and assigned to them for the year.

1.3 Students will set a code and ensure that the locker is locked at all times (even when empty), except when the mobile phone is being placed inside or removed from the locker.

1.4 Students must keep the combination code confidential and not disclose it to anyone.

1.5 Should a student be found to have a mobile phone on their person during the day it will be confiscated and locked in the school safe. Student's parents/carers will be contacted and the mobile phone will be returned to a parent/carer at an appropriate time.

1.6 Students should ensure that they have turned off the mobile phone completely so as to avoid any disruption to learning. Any mobile phone that lights up or creates a noise while in a locker will be confiscated. Student's parents/carers will be contacted and the mobile phone will be returned to a parent/carer at an appropriate time.

2. Damage and Loss

2.1 Students bring their mobile phone onto the school site at their own risk.

2.2 In cases of malicious damage or theft of another student's mobile phone, existing DoE and school disciplinary processes for damage to the school's or another student's property apply.

3. Insurance

3.1 Student mobile phones are not covered by Departmental or School Insurance. As mobile phones are subject to a higher risk of loss or accidental damage, prior to signing up for an insurance policy, students should be fully aware of the details and limitations of the policy, including any excess charged for making a claim, and the name of the company that holds the policy. As a guide, a suitable electronic device insurance policy should cover all types of electronic devices and provide worldwide, replacement cost coverage against: