



JOHN EDMONDSON HIGH SCHOOL

Mobile Phone Policy

Rationale

While mobile phones and other such devices have significant advantages for use in the broader community their use in schools is highly problematic. In schools, mobile phones can be significant distractors to learning and they can also pose significant risk to the safety of students through unfiltered access to the internet and by giving students the easy means through which they can contact those outside the school community who can then pose a threat to those within.

Expectations

Students may not use mobile phones or similar devices while on school grounds at any times. In addition, school staff are not to see or hear student devices of this kind at school.

This applies to all times students are at school and on school grounds including before and after school, during and between classes and at all break times such as recess and lunch. Please note: 'school grounds' extends to school excursions, sports carnivals and other events off the school site, where an approved school activity takes place.

Exemptions for medical purposes may be given after direct negotiation between the parent/carer and the Principal.

Teachers may gain permission from the Principal, in exceptional cases, to give students permission to use their mobile phone for specific purposes for a specific time. Teachers giving such permission will supervise student use of the device for this purpose.

Contact between students while they are at school and their parents/carers should occur through the school office.

Procedures

Students who choose to use their mobile phones for any reason will first be issued with a warning. Students are required to give the phone/device to a staff member and it will be securely stored in the school office so that the parent/carer of the student may collect the phone at their earliest convenience.

Students who choose to use their mobile phones for any purpose for a second time within a calendar year, will be issued with a warning of suspension. Students are required to give the phone/device to a staff member and it will be securely stored in the school office so that the parent/carer of the student may collect the phone at their earliest convenience.

Students who choose to use their mobile phones for any purpose for a third time within a calendar year, will be suspended for continued disobedience consistent with our school and NSW Department of Education Policy. Students are required to give the phone/device to a staff member and it will be securely stored in the school office so that the parent/carer of the student may collect the phone at their earliest convenience.

Definitions

A Mobile Phone or similar device includes, but is not limited to, mobile phones, tablet computers less than 9.7", music and video players, still and video cameras, voice recorders, instant messaging services, personal digital assistants, handheld games, and various other functions, commonly found within these devices as well as any device accessing the internet or messaging systems through any means, other than the approved school wireless network.

The school's Mobile Phone Policy has been developed in consultation with staff, students and the school's parent community and will be reviewed each year.