



## Student Use of Mobile Phones Information for Parents

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Eastern Hills Senior High School Eastern Hills Senior High School complies with the Department of Education *Student Mobile Phones in Public School Policy* which does not permit student use of mobile phones unless for medical or teacher directed educational purposes. While it is acknowledged that mobile phones can be used effectively as a tool to enhance learning, the ban on their use, 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 main reasons for the Department of Education banning the use of mobile phones includes:



- to remove a potential learning distraction
- to increase teaching time
- to protect the privacy of staff and students
- to improve social connections at school
- to improve the health and wellbeing of students
- to reduce opportunities for cyber bullying during school hours

Although cyber bullying occurs mainly outside of school time, banning the use of mobile phones will allow students to engage with their learning and with their peers, without the pressure of needing to respond to a mobile phone. Therefore mobile phones are **OFF and AWAY** all day.

For the purposes of this policy mobile phones include smart watches, other electronic communication devices such as ear buds and headphones.

### Conditions for Mobile Phones at the School

Students in Years 7 to 12 can have a mobile phone in their possession, but the use of the mobile phone **is not permitted** from the time a student enters the school grounds to the time they leave through the main gate. Mobile phones should be *off and away* all day which includes before school and at break times.

Mobile phones are not to be visible. They are to be stored in a school bag or on the person. If they are visible they are assumed to be in use **and will be confiscated**.

Smart watches should be set to *aeroplane mode* so phone calls and messages cannot be sent or received during the school day.

While at school students are the responsibility of the school and so all communication with parents or carers must occur through the school. This means no communication with home on the student's mobile phone during school time. Parents are not to ring students during class time. Students who become ill during the day are not to use their mobile phone to contact parents/carers. They are required to report to the Student Services Centre and request the Attendance officer to call home and ask parents/carers to collect them from school.

The teacher has every right to request a student to turn off their mobile phone during a timetabled class irrespective of the caller.

## Exemptions to Conditions of Use

Exemptions to the ban include where a student requires a mobile phone:

- to monitor a health condition as part of a school approved documented health care plan e.g. to monitor blood pressure or blood sugar levels
- under the direct instruction of a teachers for educational purpose
- with permission of a teacher for a specified purpose

The mobile phone needs to be switched off and appropriately stored at the end of any such use.

## Consequences for Inappropriate Use of Mobile Phones

Non-compliance with the student mobile policy requirements will be dealt with as a breach of school discipline and managed in accordance with the [School Behaviour Guidelines](#). Each on-compliance is recorded as a *Chronicle* entry in [Compass](#) and a penalty point is applied.

Where a student is observed by the teacher to be using a mobile phone without express permission:

- **on the first occasion** the teacher will confiscate the phone, place it in an envelope clearly labelled with the student's name and form and provide it to the Student Services Centre for collected by the student at the end of the school day. Note that students will not be given permission to leave class early to collect their mobile phone.
- **on the second occasion**, the mobile phone will not be returned to the student. It must be collected by the parent.
- **on the next occasion** the student will not be permitted to have a mobile phone at school unless there is an agreement with the parent that the phone is left at the front office for the duration of the school day.
- **continual non-compliance**: will result in the loss of ***good standing status*** and associated privileges.

## Severe Breaches of Mobile Phone Use

Any student who uses a mobile phone to video a fight in the grounds of a school will be **suspended** from school. Any student found to be involved in distributing or uploading inappropriate or illegal images or videos of students, parents or staff including material that is racist, sexist, pornographic, violent, inflammatory, threatening, hateful, obscene or abusive in nature will be suspended and lose their *good standing status*.

The principal will follow the procedures detailed in the [Child Protection in Department of Education Sites Policy and Procedures](#) when concerns about the welfare of a student arise in the context of dealing with personal use of MEDs, or where the principal is made aware that a recording that contains sexually explicit material involving minors. The Principal will make a report via the [Online Incident Notification System](#) as soon as practicable, communicate with, and offer support to, school staff, students and others as required and report any illegal activity to the police.