



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

June 2021

Primary student use of mobile phones and personal devices

Purpose

This policy provides direction to students, staff and families about managing 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, during school hours.

Mobile phone use for primary school students

The department's position is that primary aged students cannot use their mobile phones and personal devices at school during school hours. The department and the school recognise 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.

During the school day students are not permitted to access or use their mobile phones or other personal devices. Students must switch off or mute their devices before storing them at the beginning of the school day. They will not be able to access their device until the end of the school day.

Storage of personal devices

- Mobile phones are not to be brought into the classroom or playground. This is because:
 - Phones are increasingly expensive and HPS takes no responsibility for their safe keeping in classrooms or the school yard. If they are stolen there is still little we can do to recover them.
 - Most phones have video cameras and still cameras and the taking of photos or video is not permitted unless it is for school business (work, website, excursions, projects).
 - Phones are a distraction if they ring or beep.

- Some phones have access to the internet and we don't allow any access to the internet at school except through monitored and filtered school computers.

If the student does not comply

- HPS acknowledges that some students require access to a mobile phone for the journey to and from school. Students may travel on buses or travel distances where a mobile phone is used for emergencies and to check on safety.
- If a student requires a mobile phone to be brought to school for safety then they are to hand it to the class teacher each morning for safe keeping and collect it at the end of the day.
- If parents need to collect their child during the day they are able to ring the school on 8261 2248 and leave a message, which will be passed onto the child.
- If a student misuses the personal device, this may result in disciplinary action which links to our school behaviour management policy.
- If the student's phone has to be confiscated it will be securely stored and returned to the student or parent at the end of the day.

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
- secure storage is provided for student personal devices that are handed in to school staff.
- processes are in place for monitoring internet and school network use by all members of the school community.

Enforce the 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 policy from parents 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 at times when a device is being used by a student in line with an approved exemption or in circumstances where students' devices are stored in the classroom.

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 an exemption under this policy, do so in a safe, responsible and respectful way and support peers to do the same.

Communicate respectfully with others and do not use a mobile phone or other personal device to bully, harass or threaten another person.

Respect others' rights to privacy and do not take photos, film or audio records of other people without their knowledge or permission.

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.

Communication and review

- Consultation of this policy has been undertaken with students, staff and Governing Council to make the decision regarding the storage of students' devices and what actions will be taken if students do not comply with the policy.
- When reviewing these local decisions consultation will occur with students, staff and Governing Council.
- To ensure community members are aware of the policy requirements, the policy is available on the school website.
- The policy is reviewed yearly.

Supporting information

Links to HPS policies and procedures that support with the local policy on the use of mobile phones and personal devices.

<https://www.hampsteadps.sa.edu.au/parent-information/policies-and-reports/>

- school behaviour code, behaviour support policy
- school anti-bullying policy
- BYOD policy, ICT user agreements.