



## Student Mobile Phones and Smartwatches in Public Schools Policy

Effective date: 3 February 2021

Version 1.0

Review 1/09/2022

### 1. Policy statement

The department of Education does not permit student use of mobile phones in public schools unless for medical or teacher directed educational purpose.

### 2. Policy Rules

Principals must;

- implement a ban on the use of mobile phones for all students from the time they arrive to the conclusion of the school day (“off and away all day”) unless the student has been granted an exemption for the following uses of mobile phones;
  - To monitor a health condition as part of a school approved documented health care plan; or
  - for a particular educational purpose under the direct instruction of a teacher; or
  - with permission of a teacher for a specified purpose.
- implement the following rules for students in different year levels;
  - Students from Kindergarten to year 6 are not permitted to have mobile phones in their possession during the school day.
- require students to put their smart watches in ‘aeroplane mode’ so phone call and messages cannot be sent or received during the school day.
- determine an appropriate storage approach for mobile phones for students from Kindergarten to Year 6 and
- manage breaches of this policy in accordance with the Student behaviour in Public Schools Policy and Procedures.

#### **Guidance**

*For purposes of this policy, mobile phones’ includes smart watches, other electronic communication devices, and associated listening accessories, such as, but not limited to, headphones and ear buds.*

*“Off and away all day” includes before school and at break times.*

*Schools may choose, in consultation with the school community, to maintain or introduce a mobile phone policy that imposes further restrictions than those set out in this policy.*

*All communication between parents and students, during school hours should occur via the school’s administration.*

*In instances of student fighting and videoing fights see- [CEO Directive: Required action to be taken with students fighting or publishing videos of fighting](#)*

*For multiple offences of non-compliance with this policy, student phones/smartwatches may require collection by a parent/carer or loss of good standing.*

**3. Responsibility for implantation and compliance**

Implementation of the policy is the responsibility of principals.  
Compliance monitoring is the responsibility of the line managers.

**4. Scope**

This policy applies to all principals of public schools

**5. Related Department policies**

Related Department policies – Student behaviour in Public Schools.

Other documents -CEO Directive: Required action to be taken with students fighting or publishing videos of fighting

**6. Contact Information**

Policy manager: Director, Teaching and Student Support Services

Policy Contact officer: Principal Advisor - T: (08) 9264 4583

**7. History of changes**

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Notes This new Student Mobile Phones in Public Schools Policy was endorsed by the Director General on 29 October 2019. D19/0496266.