



WATERVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL



MOBILE PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY - SCHOOL

RATIONALE

This policy aims to protect the wellbeing of students at Watervale Primary School and maintain a safe, inclusive, and productive learning environment. Mobile phones and other personal electronic devices are not essential during school hours and present potential risks, such as loss, damage, or misuse.

This policy aligns with the DfE Student Use of Mobile Phones and Personal Devices Policy and supports our commitment to safeguarding students and ensuring equal opportunities for learning.

THE GOALS OF THIS POLICY ARE TO:

- Support families in managing mobile phone and electronic device usage by students.
- Protect students from loss, damage, and misuse of these devices.
- Ensure students remain focused on learning and are not distracted by personal devices.

WHAT WE KNOW:

Mobile phones and electronic devices:

- Are private property and expensive.
- Are at risk of damage or loss in the school environment.
- Can lead to inappropriate use, including distractions and non-inclusive behaviour.

POLICY DETAILS

1. General Rules for Mobile Phones and Devices:
 - a. Mobile phones and devices are not to be brought to school by students unless absolutely necessary.
 - b. If a mobile phone or device must be brought to school, it must be:
 - i. Stored in a safe box in the office from the start of the day.
 - ii. Returned to the student at the end of the school day.
2. Exemptions:
 - a. Students may seek an exemption if the use of a device is required for:
 - i. Medical purposes (e.g., managing diabetes or other health conditions).
 - ii. Educational needs (e.g., disability adjustments or specific school-authorised activities).
 - b. Exemption applications must be documented and approved by the Principal.
3. Consequences for Non-Compliance:
 - a. Any mobile phone or electronic device observed or reported to be in use without permission will be confiscated and stored securely by the Principal.
 - b. Confiscated devices will only be returned to a parent or guardian upon request.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Students:
 - a. Switch off and store phones/devices as required.
 - b. Comply with the rules and respect the device storage process and exemption conditions.
2. Parents/Guardians:
 - a. Support the school's policy by encouraging children not to bring phones/devices unless necessary.
 - b. Use formal school communication channels to contact their child during the school day.

3. Staff:

- a. Provide secure storage for phones and devices throughout the school day.
- b. Enforce the policy consistently, addressing non-compliance respectfully.
- c. Model appropriate use of personal devices in the workplace.

4. Principal:

- a. Monitor policy implementation, ensuring fairness and consistency.
- b. Approve exemptions or address grievances associated with this policy.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Cyber Safety:
 - This policy aims to support safe online practices. Misuse of devices involving inappropriate content, bullying, or harassment will be addressed in line with the Responding to Online Safety Incidents in South Australian Schools Guidelines^[^4].
 - Any suspected illegal use of devices will be reported to SAPOL (South Australian Police), consistent with departmental policy.
- Formal Communication:
 - Parents must communicate through the school's official channels to contact students during school hours.

ACCESS TO SUPPORTIVE LINKS

1. Student Use of Mobile Phones and Personal Devices Policy – <https://edi.sa.edu.au/library/document-library/shared/student-use-of-mobile-phones-and-personal-devices-policy.pdf#page=8>
2. Responding to Online Safety Incidents in South Australian Schools Guidelines – <https://edi.sa.edu.au/library/document-library/shared/responding-to-online-safety-incidents-in-south-australian-schools-guideline.pdf#page=17>
3. Cyber Safety Resources for Schools – <https://edi.sa.edu.au/library/document-library/shared/student-use-of-mobile-phones-and-personal-devices-policy.pdf#page=13>