



MOBILE PHONE GUIDELINES

At Marsden High School, we believe in empowering students to take responsibility for their own learning as self-directed and resilient members of the community. Research shows that the mere presence of mobiles in the classroom can be detrimental to student performance, unless they are being actively utilised as a learning tool under teacher guidance.

Therefore, we restrict the use of mobile phones during school hours to help manage the risks and rewards of phone use when students are in our care. Our aim is to promote a safer and effective learning environment for all our students that reduces this source of unnecessary distraction, along with reducing inappropriate or targeting behaviours.

Students are able to bring their mobile phones to school and use them before school, at recess and lunch times. However, our expectation is that students will adhere to our school wide expectation that phones and buds are off and in bags when they enter our buildings, offices, classrooms, all learning spaces, assemblies and school event locations. If parents/carers need to contact their child urgently during school hours, they should call the school and we will facilitate the communication.

All students are to consistently apply the following (zero tolerance and no variation):

- **Phones and buds in bags, switched off** - Classroom Rule No. 1. Students are to ensure this occurs before entering a classroom or space as indicated above.
- **Phone use in a lesson is only at the Classroom Teacher's discretion** - Teachers will give clear directions for technology use in their lessons. When phones are being used in class for learning activities, they must not be used to:
 - Make calls, send SMS messages or communicate with others
 - Audio record, video or photograph any person at school without their consent (this also applies during out-of-class use)

Where misuse of mobiles phones occurs during class time, the following procedure will apply:

- **False Start Warning** - Similar to an athletics event where the first person to false start incurs the warning for all of the athletes in the race. The following athletes that false start are immediately disqualified. Therefore in class, after the false start warning for phone misuse has been issued in the lesson, all following instances of phone misuse will result in immediate confiscation of the phone/s. They will be delivered to the Front Office and stored with the Deputy Principal.
- **First occasion: Removal of phone to Deputy Principal** - phone placed in the phone envelope and the student delivers their phone to the Front Office. The Office Staff will provide a receipt to the student to show the Class Teacher and retain for phone return. The phone will be returned to the student by the DP at the end of the day after the final bell when class is dismissed.
- **Second occasion: Removal of phone to Deputy Principal** - same confiscation process as above. The DP will meet with the student to 'Work it Out' and issue a consequence.
- **Third and following occasions: Removal of phone to Deputy Principal** - same confiscation process as above. The DP will contact the parent/carer to notify them of the issue and discuss a solution. For continued non-compliance the Head Teacher Learning & Wellbeing will organise a parent/carer meeting to discuss further supports for the student to manage their phone use at school. Continued breaches will be considered as a formal discipline matter and further consequences may apply.
- **Non-compliance with Mobile Phone Procedure** - if any student does not comply with the mobile phone procedure, or ignores teacher direction, it becomes a formal discipline matter and the DP will meet with the student to "Work it Out" and issue a consequence. Further non-compliance will result in a parent/carer meeting and actions as outlined above.