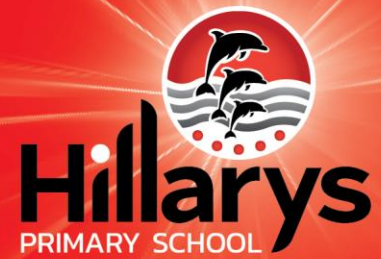


Mobile Phones and Smart Devices

POLICY and PROCEDURES 2022-2023

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Policy

The Department of Education does not permit student use of mobile phones in public schools unless for medical or teacher directed educational purpose. It is not a requirement at Hillarys Primary School for students to have a mobile phone and/or smart devices at school. Students assume all responsibility for the care of any mobile phones or devices they bring to school.

Hillarys Primary School recognises that an increasing number of parents/carers who for safety and/or emergency purposes wish, to provide their children with mobile phones. This policy details the conditions under which mobile phones and smart devices are permitted at Hillarys Primary School.

Rationale

The policy bans students from using mobile phones from the time they enter the school grounds to the conclusion of the school day. This includes smart watches and listening accessories, such as headphones and earbuds. The policy supports staff and students to:

- reduce the potential for learning distraction
- protect the privacy of staff and students
- improve health and wellbeing
- reduce the chance of students bringing external issues to school through technology.

This policy sets minimum requirements for schools as mandated by the Education Department policy, 24 January 2022 and aligns with the Hillarys Primary School's Positive Behaviour Policy, 2022-2023.

Conditions of Use

The use of mobile phones and/or smart devices for all students will be banned from the time they arrive at school to the conclusion of the school day, including break times.

- Students must have mobile phones switch to SILENT or OFF and stored in their bags during the day
- Students must have smart devices switched to 'aeroplane mode' during the school day
- Parents may opt for mobile phones and devices to be taken to the administration office where students sign a register and have their property securely stored during the school day

Duty of Care

Hillarys Primary School maintains duty of care for all students when they are attending the school.

In emergencies, where students need to get in contact with parents/carers, students are to notify the appropriate school staff. If parents/carers need to contact their children, they are asked to contact the school directly.

All communication between parents and students during school hours needs to be approved by teachers, and front office and administration staff notified.

Exemptions and Communication

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

- to monitor a health condition as part of a school approved documented health care plan; or under the direct instruction of a teacher for educational purposes; or with permission of a teacher for a specific purpose.
- Where a student has been granted an exemption, the mobile phone can be used by the student, however its use must be monitored by school staff and then stored in the administration office when not in use.

Communication on devices must follow these guidelines:

- Smart watches must be in 'aeroplane mode' so phone calls and messages cannot be sent or received during the school day.
- All communication between parents and students, during school hours, needs to occur via the teacher or school administration, and the front office staff.

Breaches

- Breaches of this policy will be managed in accordance with the School Behaviour Management Policy and Procedures.
- Students who do not comply with this policy will have their mobile phone held at the administration office. The parent/carer will be informed and requested to collect the mobile phone/smart device at their earliest convenience.
- In the case of repeated inappropriate mobile phone use by a student, the principal may request the withdrawing of the mobile phone from the school for a determined period or permanently.
- Further disciplinary action, in accordance with Hillarys Primary School Positive Behaviour policy and procedures, may be a result of repeated breaches and depending on the circumstances of the breach.

