



Students use of Mobile Phones in Schools Management Plan

Rationale and Objectives

Haberfield Public School supports the restrictions of mobile phones in accordance with the NSW Department of Education: Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools policy <https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2023-0480>. Mobile phone use in schools can impact student learning and wellbeing. Restricting mobile phone use at school aims to increase focus in classrooms, remove distractions and promote positive social interaction, while reducing the potential for online bullying. Haberfield Public School has strong teaching and learning practices to support students in the classroom using various forms of appropriate technology, which maximises the benefits and minimises the risks of digital environments and prepare students for life beyond school. We foster a safe learning environment which supports and enhances each child's social and emotional health through our wellbeing and learning support teams.

Haberfield Public School uses the following approach:

- All Mobile Phones and Smart Watches with phone capability will be handed in and stored in the School Office for the full school day, including recess and lunch.
- The school accepts no responsibility for lost/ stolen/ damaged phones/smart watches which includes at school and to and from school.

This is an approved NSW Department of Education option and will limit unnecessary distractions and complement our ongoing approach to ensure every student maximises their learning and social growth in a safe and supportive environment.

Exemptions

Haberfield Public School understands there may be students who have a medical, wellbeing or learning need which will require them to access a mobile phone as defined in this plan. The Principal may allow students to use mobile phones in specific circumstances, such as for an educational purpose, to achieve student health and wellbeing outcomes, or as part of reasonable adjustment to enable students with specific needs to participate in education on the same basis as other students. In these cases, Parents/ carers are to meet with the Principal will meet with each student and their parents/ carers in order to determine where an exemption will be applied for on behalf of a student, as well as the adjustments to any school-based practices and procedures.

Contacting students

Haberfield Public School understands there will always be emergencies when parents need to get in contact with students or vice versa during the school day. We try to keep this to a minimum, with the exception of emergencies, to avoid disturbing the students' learning. Parents and carers can make contact with the school through the school office on (02) 9798-8767 and students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office if urgent.

Kristy Haggett
Rel. Principal

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