



Mobile Phone Policy

Revised August 2024

The Department of Education does not permit student use of mobile phones in public schools.

It is important to note that it is not a requirement at Southern Cross DHS for students to have a mobile phone at school.

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

Conditions of Use

- The use of mobile phones for all students will be banned from the time they arrive at school to the conclusion of the school day. This includes before school and at break times (off and away all day).

Procedures

Secondary students (Kindergarten to year 12)

Students are not permitted to have mobile phones in their possession during the school day. If brought to school, mobile phones and devices must be switched off and handed in to the front office for keeping for the day. Students are permitted to collect them from the office at the conclusion of the school day.

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
- with permission of a teacher for a specified purpose.
- Smart watches must be in 'aeroplane mode' so phone calls and messages cannot be sent or received during the school day.
- While at Southern Cross DHS, students are the responsibility of the school. All communication between parents and students, during school hours, should occur via the school's administration.
- Students possessing a "second" phone will have both phones confiscated and parents will be required to collect both items from the front office.
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Breaches of this Policy

Students who do not comply with this policy will have their mobile phone confiscated and held at administration. The student can collect the mobile phone at the end of the school day.

The parent/caregiver of the student will be contacted in line with the 2nd Offence where:

- their mobile phone will be confiscated and held at administration.
- The parent/carer will be requested to collect the mobile phone from the school at their earliest convenience.