



MOBILE PHONES & OTHER COMMUNICATION DEVICES POLICY

WANNIASSA SCHOOL

Rationale

Digital Technology is evolving at a rapid and intractable rate and while it has some educational advantages in teaching and learning, the impact of mobile phones and other such devices has raised concerns within the school and wider community.

The ACT Education Directorate has an overarching policy for all ACT public schools that states students in Preschool to Year 10 may not use or access personal communications devices at school, including recess and lunch, or during school authorised events, unless the school principal or their delegate has approved a formal and specific exemption.

Through the Technology Enabled Learning Program, the ACT Education Directorate is committed to producing responsible, literate, and knowledgeable digital citizens. As part of this program, all students receive a Chromebook device. This has eliminated any need for student mobile phones to be used as a learning device.

Appropriate use of Mobile Phones and other communication devices

As outlined in the Education Directorate's policy, students in P-10 may not use or access a mobile phone or other personal communication devices at school unless the principal has approved a formal or specific exemption.

At school means any time between 8:30am – 3:30pm, while on school grounds or while attending a school event at another location.

Students are strongly encouraged not to bring their phone (or similar device) to school. However, we acknowledge that some students may require a mobile phone to travel to and from school safely. In these circumstances:

- P-6 students must leave their phones at the front office while at school.
- 7-10 student must keep their phone in their bag or locker, switched off, until the end of the school day and they have left school grounds.

Items connected to mobile phones (such as smart watches) and those that can communicate independently (game devices) must not be used for communication purposes (talking or messaging) at any time while at school.

Contact with parents and carers in case of illness or an emergency can be made through the Front Office. Staff will ensure the student is reached quickly and that appropriate procedures are followed.

Other communications, such as pick-up arrangements can also be made through the Front Office. Please note the end of the school day is a very busy time for staff and general messages received after 2:15pm may not be able to be delivered to students before 3pm.

Students can contact parents and carers during the school day on request at the Front Office or (7-10) Student Services.

The school does not accept liability in the event of loss, theft, or damage of a mobile phone, PEDs or accessories such as chargers or headphones.

Procedures for inappropriate Mobile Phone use

P-6 students will be asked to deliver their phone to the Front Office immediately.

7-10 students who have a phone, which is in view but not in use, will be reminded to put it away.

If 7-10 students use their phone, they will be asked to forfeit the device until the end of the day. Staff will deliver the phone to Student Services where it can be collected at the end of the day or when exiting school grounds. If a student refuses to forfeit their phone, the teacher will refer the student to an Executive member of staff who will follow the school's behaviour management procedures to resolve the issue and contact the parent/carer.

In the case of persistent non-compliance with this policy, Year 7-10 students will be required to deliver their phone to Student Services on entry to school daily, to collect at the end of the day. This arrangement will be for a defined period, which will be communicated to the student and their parent/carer.

Chromebooks and other laptops

ACT Public School students may bring a school issued Chromebook or other laptop style devices to school to support their learning. Mobile phones are not a substitute for a Chromebook.

Exemptions

If a student needs to use a mobile phone or similar device during the school day, the student must seek the principal's approval via the Education Directorate's exemption form for a specific and defined use.

Exemptions will be approved for students who need their phone/assistive technology to manage or monitor a medical condition or help meet caring or family responsibilities.

Further guidance on exemptions is provided in the Implementation Procedures: Personal Use of Communication Devices in ACT Public Schools.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Principal is responsible for the implementation of this policy and to ensure positive reinforcement of the procedure occurs through regular reminders - for example via the school's Facebook page, newsletters, information nights and other communication channels.

If you have any concerns about the application of this policy, or the policy itself, you should:

- make contact, with us in the first instance, via email info@wans.act.edu.au
- contact The Education Directorate's Feedback and Complaints team on (02) 6205 5429 or online at www.education.act.gov.au/contact_us

Related documents

[Acceptable use of ICT- Parents and Students Policy](#)

[ICT Management in Schools Policy](#)

[Use of Personal Electronic Devices Policy](#)

[Safe and Supportive Schools Policy](#)

[Suspension, Transfer and Exclusion Policy](#)

Related Legislation

[Discrimination Act 1991](#)

[Human Rights Act 2004](#)

[Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#)

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