



Mobile Phone/Device Policy (2022)

1. Rationale

Although laptops are the predominant/preferred electronic device for learning in the classroom at Woollooware High School, mobile phones can also be used for directed learning activities. The proliferation of smart devices has raised considerable community debate in relation to their applicability to schools and their capacity to bring negative consequences to learning and the wellbeing of students.

This policy acknowledges the distractions that mobile phones and other electronic devices can cause in schools, while also understanding the learning, wellbeing and security advantages the same devices can afford. Therefore, this policy outlines the appropriate use of mobile phones-devices during lessons and other learning activities. It seeks to strike the right balance and preserve the focus on learning that is foundational to a Woollooware High education.

2. Aims

- 2.1 To guide the appropriate use of mobile phones-devices in order to support learning.
- 2.2 To establish the principle of directed use by teachers as the only reason for mobile phones/devices during lessons.
- 2.3 To encourage student self-responsibility for appropriate mobile phone/device use.
- 2.4 To establish consequences for the inappropriate use of mobile phones/devices.

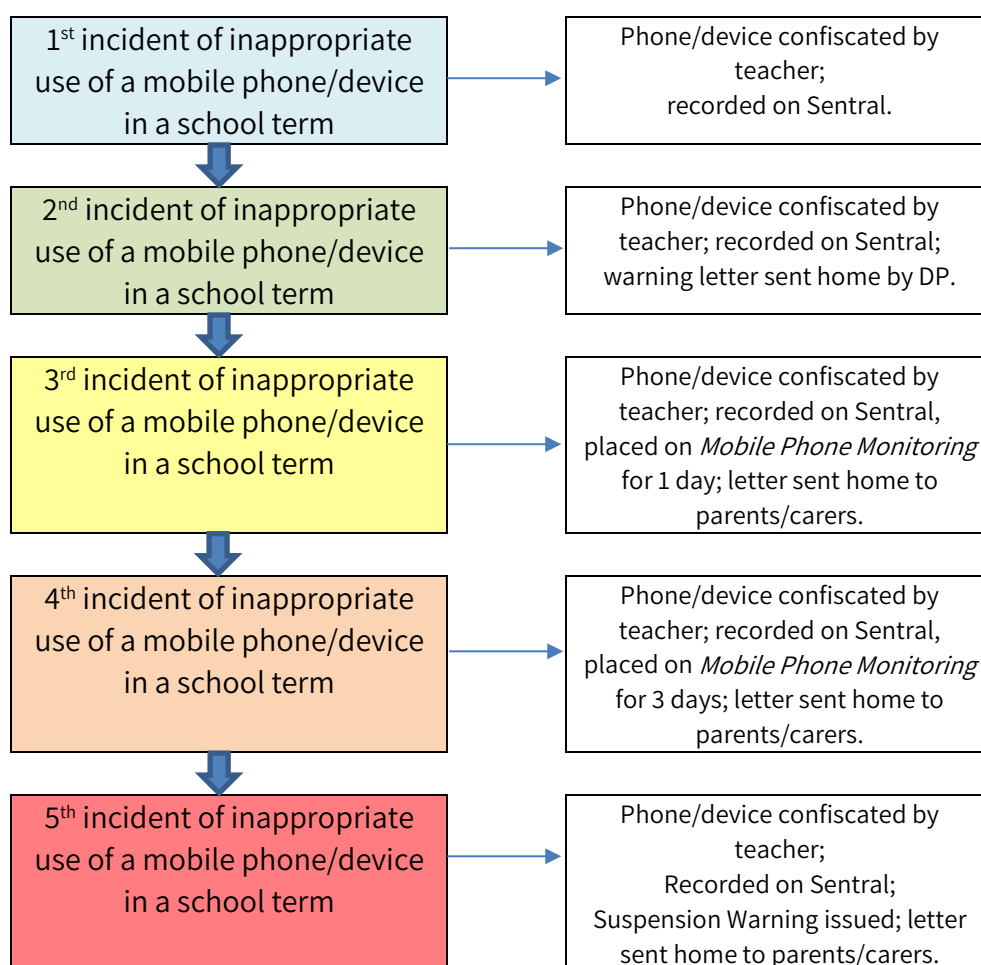
3. Implementation

- 3.1 *Appropriate use* in learning is defined by teacher permission to use a mobile phone/device.
- 3.2 *Inappropriate use* is defined as student use of a mobile phone/device without teacher permission.
- 3.3 For clarity, this policy extends to the appropriate/inappropriate use of all electronic devices (including, but not limited to, laptops, iPads, earphones and AirPods).
- 3.3 Lesson time includes any movement within and beyond the classroom.
- 3.4 It is the responsibility of students to ensure that, at the beginning of every lesson, their mobile phone is switched to silent, or switched off, and placed in bags. Other devices can be left closed on the desk until directed by the class teacher.
- 3.5. Mobile phones are to be stored in school bags before beginning a lesson.
- 3.6 If a student is using a mobile phone/device inappropriately, the teacher can confiscate the mobile phone/device for the remainder of the lesson. Students will have their phone/device returned to them at the end of the lesson and the incident will be recorded on Sentral by the teacher.
- 3.7. A student who has their phone/device confiscated by a teacher three times over the course of one school term will be placed on *Mobile Phone Monitoring*. This requires students to surrender their phone at the beginning of the next school day (before their first period of the day) to a Deputy Principal, and returned to the student at the end of the school day. A student who has

their phone confiscated by a teacher for a fourth time in one school term, will be placed on *Mobile Phone Monitoring* for 3 school days. A failure to follow the *Mobile Phone Monitoring* procedure will result in a Suspension Warning/Suspension for continued disobedience.

3.8. A student who has their phone confiscated by a teacher more than four times over the course of a term, even after completing *Mobile Phone Monitoring*, will result in a Suspension Warning/Suspension for continued disobedience.

4. Flowchart of Procedure Outlines in 3.6, 3.7 & 3.8



5. Evaluation

This policy will be evaluated as part of a three year cycle or when necessary.

6. Further Reading/Supporting Documents

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/legal-issues-bulletins/bulletin-35-misuse-of-technology-in-schools>

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/educational-data/cese/publications/literature-reviews/impact-of-mobile-digital-devices-in-schools>

7. Contact

7.1 School Executive Team

7.2 Wellbeing Team

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