



## **WA Public Schools Mobile Phone Policy (Effective from 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020)**

### **Policy Statement**

The Department of Education does not permit student use of mobile phones in public schools unless for medical or teacher directed educational purposes.

### **Mobile electronic devices (MEDs)**

This policy refers to devices such as, but not limited to:

- Mobile Phones and accessories (e.g. earphones)
- iPads
- Game Consoles
- iPods and accessories (e.g. earphones)
- Smartwatches
- DVD Players and accessories (e.g. earphones)

The inappropriate use of MEDs is disruptive to the learning environment. Consequently, the use of these items is restricted.

Students are not permitted to use MEDs from the time they arrive at SIDE to the conclusion of the school day (“off and away all day”) unless the student has been granted an exemption for the following uses of mobile phones:

- to monitor a health condition as part of a school approved documented health care plan; or
- for a particular educational purpose under the direct instruction of a teacher; or
- with permission of a teacher for a specified purpose.
- Students from Year 7 to 12 are permitted to be in possession of their mobile phone during the school day, however, mobile phones must be turned off and neither seen nor heard.
- Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 are not permitted to have mobile phones in their possession during the school day.
- Students are to put their smart watches in ‘aeroplane mode’ so phone calls and messages cannot be sent or received during the school day.

### **The following points relate specifically to the use of mobile phones at school:**

- Under no circumstances are MEDs to be used whilst the student is out of class during class time (e.g. using an out-of-class pass, toilet-pass, etc.) Under no circumstances are mobile electronic devices to be used during in-class assessments. See SIDE’s assessment policies
- Mobile phones must be turned off and put away for the entire time the student is on the SIDE site unless the phone is being used in class, with teacher permission, and for curriculum related tasks.
- Mobile phones are not to be used to record, distribute, display or upload inappropriate images or videos of students, staff or parents at any time.
- In the event of an emergency situation, students are not to use their mobile phones to photograph or record events, send text messages or make phone calls without the prior permission of a member of staff.

Any breach of these rules may result in sanctions, including student suspension.

**Parents and students are reminded that no liability will be accepted by the school in the event of loss, theft or damage of any electronic device.**

This policy is in accordance with The Department of Education's Personal use of mobile electronic devices guidelines and Child Protection in Department of Education Sites policy. Breaches of this policy will be managed in accordance with the Student Behaviour in Public Schools Policy and Procedures.

### **Guidance:**

- *For the purposes of the policy, 'mobile phones' includes smart watches, other electronic communication devices, and associated listening accessories, such as, but not limited to headphones and ear buds.*
- *"Off and away all day" includes before school and at break times.*
- *All communication between parents and students, during school hours, should occur via the school's administration*
- *For multiple offences of non-compliance with this policy, student phones may require collection by a parent/carer or loss of good standing*