

Students use of Mobile Phones in Schools Management Plan



Rationale and Objectives

Bungendore High School supports the restriction of mobile phones in accordance with the NSW Department of Education: [Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools policy](#). 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. Bungendore High 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 prepares 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.

Bungendore High School has elected to use the following approach: all mobile phones will be handed in and stored in the School Office for the full school day, including recess and lunch. This approach extends to school excursions, sports carnivals, and other events at the school or off-site where an approved school activity takes place, unless advised otherwise. 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.

Bungendore High School prefers that students do not bring phones to school. The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are brought to school and will not investigate their loss or theft.

If a student brings their phone to school, then on arrival at school, students are to place their phones in their Crew Boxes in Admin West. This should occur *before* 9:05 am, and students should ensure they are on time to class at 9:05am. Phones will be returned at the end of the final session at school. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays this will be at the end of Crew. On Wednesdays this will be after Sport.

Students who fail to comply with the handing in of phones at the start of the school day will have the phone confiscated, and it may require collection by their parents along with further disciplinary action as needed.

Exemptions

Bungendore High 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. Parents of students who believe they meet the need are to complete the Mobile Phone Ban Exemption Form that is available at the School Office and submit this to the Principal. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine where an exemption will be granted, as well as the adjustments to any school-based practices and procedures.

Contacting students

Bungendore High School understands there will always be emergencies when parents need to get in contact with students or vice versa during the school day. Parents and carers can make contact with the school through the school office via telephone on 02 6238 8400 or email bungendore-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au and students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office if urgent.