

Hallidays Point Public School

Principal: Peter Johnson



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Student use of mobile phones in schools

Direction and guidance on the safe and responsible use of mobile phones for students in NSW public schools.

Note: This policy is for implementation in Term 4 2023.

Audience and applicability

This policy applies to all students in NSW public schools.

1. Policy statement

1.1 Students are not allowed to use mobile phones at school, including during recess and lunch.

1.2 Principals will manage individual requests from parents and/or carers, and students, for any exemptions to the policy.

1.3 Principals may allow students to use mobile phones in specific circumstances, such as for an educational purpose, to achieve student health and wellbeing outcomes, or as part of reasonable adjustment to enable students with specific needs to participate in education on the same basis as other students.

2. Context

2.1 Learning environments should support students to develop technological, social and emotional competencies. This support should maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of digital environments and prepare students for life beyond school.

devicesinschools@det.nsw.edu.au

The Executive Director, Digital Learning monitors the implementation of this policy, regularly reviews its contents and updates it as needed.

[The new policy on students' use of mobile phones in schools](https://www.nsw.gov.au) (nsw.gov.au)

[Student use of mobile phones in schools procedure](https://www.nsw.gov.au) (nsw.gov.au)

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HPPS Guidelines for Mobile Phones (Digital Devices) Student Use in Schools

Rationale and Objectives

Hallidays Point Public School supports the restrictions of mobile phones (including smart watches, space talk watches, games, online devices or any device capable of connection to the internet or cellular network) in accordance with the NSW Department of Education: Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools policy

[Student use of mobile phones in schools](https://www.nsw.gov.au) (nsw.gov.au). 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. HPPS 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 prepare 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.

Phones/devices stored in school office

HPPS has elected to use the following approach. All mobile phones/watches will be handed in and stored in the School Office in a secure location for the full school day, including recess and lunch. 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.

Contacting students

Hallidays Point Public School understands there will always be emergencies when parents need to get in contact with students or vice versa during the school day. We try to keep this to a minimum, with the exception of emergencies, to avoid disturbing the students' learning. Parents and carers can make contact with the school through the school office 6559 3009 or hallidays-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au and students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office if urgent.

Exemptions

Hallidays Point Public School understands there may be students who have a medical, wellbeing or learning needs which will require them to access a mobile phone/watch as defined in this plan. If your family requires an exemption, the principal will meet with each student and their parents and carers in order to determine where an exemption will be applied for on behalf of a student, as well as the adjustments to any school-based practices and procedures.

This has been endorsed and supported by staff and our HPPS P&C Association