



Mobile Phones in Schools Policy

Date of Policy: September 2023

Endorsed by the Singleton PS School Board September 2023.

SINGLETON PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENT MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOLS POLICY

Policy

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

It is important to note that it is not a requirement at Singleton Primary School for students to have a mobile phone at school.

Singleton Primary School recognises that an increasing number of parents/carers who for safety, security and/or emergency purposes wish to provide their children with mobile phones. This policy details the conditions under which mobile phones are permitted at Singleton Primary School.

Conditions of Use

- The use of mobile phones for all students will be banned from the time they arrive at school to the conclusion of the school day. This includes before school and at break times. Students are not permitted to have mobile phones in their possession during the school day.
- Mobile phones must be switched off and handed to the classroom teacher before the commencement of the school day. Students can collect their mobile phone at the end of the school day. The classroom teacher will clearly identify and secure the student's mobile phone.

Exemptions and Communication

- Exemptions to this ban include where a student requires a mobile phone:
 - to monitor a health condition as part of a school approved documented health care plan; or
 - under the direct instruction of a teacher for educational purposes; or with permission of a teacher for a specified purpose.
- Smart watches must be in 'aeroplane mode' so phone calls and messages cannot be sent or received during the school day.
- While at Singleton Primary School, students are the responsibility of the school. All communication between parents and students, during school hours, should occur via the school's administration.
- Singleton Primary School has duty of care for all students when they are attending the school. In emergencies, where students need to get in contact with parents/carers, students are to notify the appropriate school staff. If parents/carers need to contact their children, they are asked to contact the school directly.

- Where a student has been granted an exemption, the mobile phone can be used by the student, however its use must be monitored by school staff and then stored in the administration office when not in use.

Breaches of this Policy

- Breaches of this policy will be managed in accordance with the *School Behaviour Management Policy and Procedures*.
- Students who do not comply with this policy will have their mobile phone confiscated and held at the administration office. The parent/carer will be informed and requested to collect the mobile phone at their earliest convenience.
- In the case of repeated inappropriate mobile phone use by a student, the principal may request the withdrawing of the mobile phone from the school for a determined period or permanently.
- Further disciplinary action, in accordance with Singleton Primary School student behaviour policy and procedures may be a result of repeated breaches and or depending on the circumstances of the breach.

Further Guidance

For the purposes of this policy, 'mobile phones' includes smart watches and associated listening accessories, such as, but not limited to, headphones and ear buds.