



Students use of Mobile Phones in Schools Management Plan Term 4 2023

In Brief:

- Coffs Harbour Senior College supports the restrictions of mobile phones in accordance with the NSW Department of Education: Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools policy
- All mobile phones will be switched off and left in students bag or locker during the day.
- 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.
- Teachers may give permission to use mobile phones for an approved learning activity.

Rationale and Objectives

Coffs Harbour Senior College supports the restrictions of mobile phones in accordance with the NSW Department of Education: Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools policy (<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2020-0471>).

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.

Coffs Harbour Senior College 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.

Coffs Harbour Senior College recognises that we have a unique student population as a Senior Secondary College in NSW. Senior Secondary Principals can use their judgement around the application of the mobile phone ban in our settings to make sure students' individual needs are effectively addressed and supported.

Coffs Harbour Senior College has elected to use the following approach:

All mobile phones will be switched off and left in their bag or locker during the day.

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.

Exemptions

Coffs Harbour Senior College 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. In this case the Deputy Principal will meet with each student and their parents and carers/the learning and support teacher will contact 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 college-based practices and procedures. Only noise cancelling earphones, that have been approved through an approved learning and support plan can be used in class.

Within the classroom, teachers may instruct, or allow students to use mobile phones to support curriculum implementation and feedback. This means that students can only use their phone if given explicit permission from the teacher for an approved learning activity such as documenting a work sample or accessing an educational application and must return their phone, switched off, to their bag at the end of the specified activity.

Students are encouraged to use our break times to socialise with their peers and engage in physical activity outside of the classroom. If necessary, students can access their phones briefly for urgent calls or messages during this time.

During study periods, students using communal areas such as the grounds, the learning centre, the library, and cafeteria must refrain from using their mobile phones, and instead should make use of other digital tools (such as laptops) to support their learning.

Depending on the type of excursion, activity, transport, and location mobile phones may be used.

As with all valuable items, CHSC cannot accept responsibility for the loss, theft, or damage to such items, including mobile phones. These items are brought to college at your own risk.

Contacting students

Coffs Harbour Senior College 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, except for emergencies, to avoid disturbing the students' learning. Parents and carers can contact the school through the school office on (02) 6659 3054 and students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office if urgent.

Consequences for inappropriate use

First Incident: Students who are in breach of the policy where devices are seen and heard will be referred to their Deputy Principal and the phone will be confiscated for the remainder of the day. The student will receive a verbal warning from the Deputy and parent/guardian will be notified. Students must collect their phones after the conclusion of the day.

Second Incident: Mobile phone will be confiscated by Deputy Principal. Parent and or Guardian will be notified, and the phone will only be released to the Parent or Guardian. Parent must meet with the Deputy Principal or Principal to discuss why their child is persistently refusing to follow College Rules, and they are issued a formal caution of suspension.

Third Incident: Same procedure as first incident followed by interview with Principal and suspension. Parents and or Carers formally notified as part of the suspension process.