



Students use of Mobile Phones in Schools Management Plan

From Term 4, 2023, NSW high schools have banned the use of mobile phones.

High school students are now required to leave their phones: in lockable pouches, in lockers, handed into school staff at the beginning of the day.

Rationale and Objectives

Willyama High School supports the restrictions of mobile phones in accordance with the NSW Department of Education: Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools policy ([Digital Devices and Online Services for Students Procedures \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/digital-devices-and-online-services-for-students-procedures)).

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. Willyama 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 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.

Willyama High School has elected to use the following approach. All mobile phones are required to be turned off and placed in a locked Salus pouch for the full school day, including recess and lunch. This will mean that students will have a responsibility to turn off their phone, place it in the locked pouch and store it safely in their school bag for the course of the school 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

Willyama 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. Students can see their deputies to ask for an exemption and provide the required documentation to accompany this.

Contacting students

Willyama High 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, except for emergencies, to avoid disturbing the students' learning. Parents and carers can contact the school through the school office 8088 1055 and students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office if urgent.

What is considered as inappropriate use of mobile phones and other devices?

A mobile phone or other device is used inappropriately if it is used in a way that:

- interferes with the learning environment or the efficient operation of the school.
- violates the privacy of a member of the school community.
- threatens, or is likely to threaten, the safety or wellbeing of any person; or
- is in breach of the law.

Example of inappropriate usage are:

- using your device during class/school activities without teacher permission
- taking photographs/video, or making voice recordings of other people without their permission
- bullying, intimidation, or harassment through any SMS, photographic, video or other data transfer system on the phone
- “sexting” (in this case, forwarding or possessing inappropriate pictures of a child under 16 years old)

Consequences of the inappropriate use of mobile phones or other devices

1 st offence	The device is confiscated by the teacher and sent to the front office for safekeeping. If student has a pouch, it will be locked back in the pouch.
2 nd offence	The student is issued with a Formal Warning of Suspension
Further offences	Disciplinary action may be invoked as outlined in the School’s Welfare Discipline Policy. This may include placement on the Student Support Scheme or Suspension for Continued Disobedience
Breaches of the Law	The school must notify the Police of any breaches of the law including when a device is used to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bully, harass or threaten another person. • Take inappropriate photographs, videos, or voice recordings on school premises; or • Produce, forward or possess pictures of a child under 16 years old in a sexual context

Salus (pouch replacement)

Each student will be allocated a pouch for free. If it is damaged in any way or lost, students must pay \$15 for a replacement.