Mobile Phone Policy

Policy Context

As part of an election commitment in 2023, the new government introduced a policy banning phones from New South Wales Government schools. At Bankstown Senior College, all school policies consider key factors such as the student population being predominately adults and are underpinned by the schools' core values:

The College's learning community is:

- **Inclusive**

We are an inclusive, kind and a supportive school which values diversity, independence and our community.

- **Respectful**

We are respectful of our history, our environment and each other.

Students above 17 (compulsory school age):

Bankstown Senior College has elected to adopt the ***'off and away'*** approach for the part of the school day when students are in classrooms and/or engaged in their learning, including recess and lunch (see exemptions). This will mean that students will have the responsibility to turn off their phone and store them safely in their school bag or locker. Students at BSC are predominately adults and accessing their phones during recess/lunch breaks (exemptions) provides an opportunity to address/manage personal family situations including their children, medical considerations, and personal matters.

Students under 17 (compulsory school age):

Bankstown Senior College has elected to adopt a ***'hand in'*** policy for students under 17. These students can select to either use the school lockers that are available at **NO** cost, hand their phone to a senior executive at the beginning of the day, then to be collected at the conclusion of the school day. If discussed with the Senior Executive at the beginning of the day and for valid reasons, the students may access their phone during break times to *'check'* their phone.

Students **may** be required to access their phones for educational purposes. This will mean:

- Within the classroom, the use of mobile phones will be at the teacher's discretion to support curriculum implementation and feedback.
- During study periods, students using school common areas such as the grounds, the open area of the Library/Study Centre and Cafeteria can access their mobile phones, to support their learning and/or for emergency matters (personal affairs).

- During breaks, students may access their mobile phones on our school site for conditions outlined under exemptions. Despite this, students are encouraged to take the opportunity to engage with their peers and to have a digital break to enhance their health and wellbeing. Payments for purchases at the cafeteria and at our school office can be made using cash or debit cards.

Students who have their mobile phone out will receive the following consequences:

- **Device seen or heard impacting the learning of others** – student will receive a verbal warning from the teacher and/or faculty Head Teacher and where appropriate parent/guardian will be notified.
- **Repeated offence** – mobile phone will be confiscated by staff; parent/guardian will be notified, and *the phone will only be released to the parent/guardian*.
- **Failure to comply** – mobile phone will be confiscated by staff; parent/guardian will be notified, and *the phone will only be released to the parent/guardian*. The student will be placed on a Formal Caution of Suspension.

Exemptions

As a school community we understand that there may be students who have additional medical, personal, wellbeing or learning needs which will require them to access a mobile phone. Parents/carers will need to contact their child's Deputy Principal to discuss an exemption to ensure that the appropriate school-based plan is completed and communicated appropriately. Where the student is an adult, these matters must be discussed with a Senior Executive and an ***exemption pass*** provided for the duration of the dates identified. Due to the nature of the student population, under circumstances where students need to access their phones during recess and/or lunch as a parent/carer to manage or address family/personal issues students will be granted permission, otherwise the 'off and away' approach is maintained.

Contacting Students

Our school community 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 This will mean on of emergencies, to avoid impacting students' learning. Parents and carers can make contact with the school through the school office 9707 3288 or bankstownseniorcollege-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au and students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office if urgent.

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are brought to school.
The college has developed this policy from the NSW Department of Education mobile phone policy and guidelines which can be accessed using the provided link:

Student use of mobile phones in schools

STUDENT MOBILE PHONE ***EXEMPTION PASS***	
Student Name:	Dates of exemption:
Reason:	Authorising Executive: Date: Signature:

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact the college directly 9707 3288