



Cumberland High School

Students' use of mobile phones and electronic devices policy

Following consultation with the Student Representative Council, Parents and Citizens Association and staff in 2023, adjustments have been made to the Cumberland High School Students' use of mobile phones and electronic devices policy. As a result of this consultation, our school will implement an '**Off and Away**' approach. This policy is being implemented to increase focus and learning in classrooms, remove distractions and promote positive social interactions. The implementation of this policy is a requirement under the Department of Education's Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools Policy.

At Cumberland High School, while the increasing use and importance of mobile phones and electronic devices in our lives is recognised, processes have been well established over a long period of time to assist parents and caregivers to deliver messages to their children, which are of an urgent or important nature, without the need for students to have a mobile phone at school.

For parents who need to contact their child during class time, a call to the office is appropriate and always welcomed. Messages are delivered to students in a prompt manner. In general, mobile phones are not necessary for communication to and from students during school hours and we ask that this is respected by all.

At times before and after school, however, mobile phones offer students and their parents many advantages in terms of ease of communication and a sense of personal safety. For this reason, the school respects the need for students to carry mobile phones and electronic devices, provided students observe the following conditions while at school:

- As with all valuable items, students are strongly discouraged from bringing mobile phones and electronic devices to school due to the potential for loss, theft or damage of the item. Cumberland High School cannot accept responsibility for the loss, theft or damage to such items, including mobile phones. These items are brought to school at your own risk.
- Mobile phones and electronic devices are to be **off and away** from the commencement of Home Room until the end of Session 4, both indicated by the school's first and final school bells. This includes, but is not limited to, making or receiving calls, sending or receiving text messages, taking photographs or videos, recording conversations, listening to music or any other unauthorised purpose. Ear buds/head phones are also banned during the school day.
- For Term 4, 2023, we will trial students being able to wear a smartwatch provided they use it only to tell the time. If a student is found to be using other features of their smartwatch, it will be confiscated and sent to the front office. This will be reviewed at the end of Term 4, 2023. Students will not be permitted to wear smartwatches during examinations.
- At Cumberland High School, off and away means the **device is turned off** (ie not in silent mode) and **stored in the student's school bag** (ie not in pockets or carried by hand).
- If students require access to their mobile phone for medical reasons, medical documentation from parents and health professionals will be required and a meeting with the relevant Deputy Principal to discuss.



Cumberland High School

183 Pennant Hills Road, CARLINGFORD NSW 2118

Ph:02 9871 7718

Email:cumberland-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

www.cumberland-h.schools.nsw.gov.au

- Mobile phones will not be able to be used to make purchases at the front office or canteen after the first bell. Students and families will need to prepare for alternative payment methods such as card or cash. Use of phone for payment can only occur before school. The canteen takes recess/lunch orders from 8am and the front office takes payments from 8.20am.
- At times, teachers may instruct, or allow students to use mobile phones or electronic devices for specific educational purposes, such as recording an experiment, using music in a dance composition or using an app specific to a subject. At these times, students may use an electronic device but only when instructed to by their teacher. Upon completion of the task, teachers will instruct students to switch off their electronic device and store in their school bags.
- Students must not have any material stored on their mobile phones or electronic devices which is offensive, harmful or illegal. It is an offence to possess images of illegal acts, such as fights, to have inappropriate images, to bully or intimidate others through the use of mobile phones, or to record and upload images/video of people without their consent, on these devices.

Implementation of this policy at Cumberland High School

Student device
remains off and
away

- Increased focus and learning in classrooms
- Minimal distractions to own and others' learning
- Enhanced positive social interactions
- Increased participation in extra-curricular activities

Student has device
out during lesson
or break times

- Teacher will collect device, place in an envelope (for mobile phones) and label with student details.
- Teacher or HT to deliver device to the front office where device will be stored for the rest of the day.
- If confiscated during class time, teacher or HT to contact parents
- If confiscated during break times, DP or Principal to contact parents
- Student to collect their device after the conclusion of their last session.

Student continues
to use device

- Parents may be requested to collect any confiscated device at the conclusion of the day instead of the student
- Where repeated infractions pose a risk to the health and safety, learning and/or the wellbeing of any person, the Department of Education's Student Behaviour Procedures may be implemented, including formal cautions and suspension.