Students use of Mobile Phones in Schools Management Plan

Rationale and Objectives

Eschol Park Public School 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-2023-0480). 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. Eschol Park Public 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.

Eschol Park Public School has elected to use the following approach. All mobile phones will be handed in and stored in the School Office for the full school day, including recess and lunch. 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.

School Procedures

We acknowledge that some students may need to bring their mobile phone or smartwatch to school for reasons relating to their safety in travelling to and from school.

When personal devices are bought to school the following will apply:

- Any mobile phone or smartwatch brought to school must be taken to the office upon the student's arrival where it will be kept secure.
- Devices can be collected from the office after 3pm, when students have been dismissed from class. Devices are not to be accessed until the student has left the school grounds.
- Students are not to use their mobile phone at school or during any school activities (eg: excursions, gala days and camps).
- While students are at school, or attending school activities, they must comply with any reasonable directions given by school staff in line with this policy regarding their personal devices.
- Students must not use mobile phones or other devices to threaten, bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people.
- Personal devices must not be used to record (video or audio) any member of the school community.
- Parents needing to contact their child during school hours are to contact their child through the normal school process by phoning the office staff. A message will then be passed to the relevant child(ren).

Exemptions

Eschol Park Public School understands there may be students who have extenuating reasons for needing access to their personal device during school hours. Parenst/carers should contact the school to request an exemption due to exceptional circumstances. These requests will be considered by the principal (or delegate) on a case-by-case basis.

Contacting students

Eschol Park Public 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, with the exception of emergencies, to avoid disturbing the students' learning. Parents and carers can make contact with the school through the school office on (02) 9824 7111 or via email - escholpark-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au and students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office if urgent.