



JOHN EDMONDSON HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL: Mr Brij Khanna

John Edmondson High School Mobile Phone Policy

Updated 10 March 2025

Rationale and Objectives

John Edmondson High School supports the restrictions of mobile phones in accordance with the NSW Department of Education: *Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools* policy. Mobile phone use in schools can impact student learning and wellbeing. Restricting mobile phone use during school hours aims to enhance students' focus in classrooms, eliminate distractions, and encourage positive social interaction, while also reducing the potential for online bullying.

John Edmondson High School has strong teaching and learning practices that support students using appropriate technology in the classroom. This approach maximises the benefits of digital tools while minimising risks associated with their use. The school also fosters a safe learning environment, supporting students' social and emotional development through our wellbeing and learning support teams.

Policy Implementation

John Edmondson High School has elected to implement an **'off and away'** policy for the full school day, including recess and lunch. This means that:

- Students must switch off their mobile phones and store them safely in their school bags from the beginning to the end of the school day.
- Mobile phones are not to be used at any time on school grounds, including before and after school, during class time, and at all break times.
- This policy extends to all school excursions, camps, sports carnivals, and other off-site school activities.

This policy aligns with the NSW Department of Education's approved approach and ensures students can fully engage in learning and social development within a safe and supportive environment.

Exemptions

John Edmondson High School understands that some students may have medical needs requiring them to access a mobile phone during the school day. Exemptions will be granted on a case-by-case basis through consultation with school leadership, parents, and relevant staff.

Parents and carers seeking an exemption for their child should contact the school to arrange a meeting with the principal to determine the necessary adjustments.



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Contacting Students

We acknowledge that parents and carers may need to contact students during school hours. To minimise disruptions, the following procedures are in place:

- Parents and carers can contact the school office on (02) 98259815 in case of urgent matters.
- Students who need to contact parents or carers during the school day must seek permission to do so through the school office.
- In emergencies, appropriate communication channels will be facilitated by school staff through the school office.

Enforcement and Consequences

To ensure compliance with this policy, the following procedures will apply:

- **First Offence** – The mobile phone will be confiscated, securely stored in the school office, and will only be returned to the student's parent or carer.
- **Second Offence** – The mobile phone will be confiscated, securely stored in the school office, and will only be returned to the student's parent or carer. A formal caution for suspension will be issued, and a meeting will be arranged with the student's parents or carers.
- **Third Offence** – The mobile phone will be confiscated, securely stored in the school office, and will only be returned to the student's parent or carer. Continued disobedience will result in further disciplinary action, which may include, but is not limited to, a suspension from school in accordance with school and NSW Department of Education policies.

Additionally, if a student refuses to hand their phone to a teacher, uses the phone in the change rooms or bathrooms, uses the phone to take photos or record other students, or if there is suspicion of inappropriate content on the student's phone, it may result in, but not limited to, an immediate suspension and a report being made to the relevant authorities.

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, a mobile phone or similar device includes, but is not limited to, mobile phones, smartwatches with messaging or call functions and any device capable of accessing the internet or messaging systems outside of the approved school wireless network. Additionally, it includes any other electronic device capable of communication, internet access, or capturing audio or video.

Policy Review

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, students, and the school community. It will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains aligned with best practices and the needs of the school.