

# Student use of Mobile Phones



We support 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 at school aims to increase focus in classrooms, remove distractions and promote positive social interaction, while reducing the potential for online bullying. We have 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.

We have elected to use the following approach. All mobile phones will be 'off and away' for the full school day, including recess and lunch. This will mean that students will have a responsibility to turn off their phone and store it safely in their school bag for the course of the school day. Students may not connect to their phone during the school day using other devices such as Smart Watches or use their phone's 4G/5G connectivity to access internet or any other electronic systems. 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

We understand 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. Parents/carers should make contact with the school to arrange a meeting with the Principal (or delegate/s) in order to determine where an exemption will be applied for, on behalf of a student, as well as the adjustments to any school-based practices and procedures.

## Contacting students

We understand 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 9830 2000 and students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office if urgent.

## Definitions:

**Mobile phone:** Any electronic device that can be used to make phone calls and/or use a personal 4G/5G Network (or similar)

**Full school day:** The moment a student enters the school grounds to start their school day through to the moment a student leaves the school grounds at the end of their school day.

# Mobile Phones

## Frequently Asked Questions



The NSW government has determined that mobile phones are not to be used during school hours. The policy for Melonba High school will be that phones are “off and away” for the entirety of the school day. As well as the Mobile Phone Policy, we have also prepared a set of responses to questions parents might have.

### **Why are phones not needed at school?**

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.

### **Can my child still bring their mobile phone to school?**

Yes, but its security is the child's responsibility

### **Are there any times or places my child can use their phone?**

If prior arrangements are made for emergency or healthcare purposes, a place will be designated.

### **When can students use their phone?**

Before they enter school and after they leave

### **What if I need to contact my child during the day?**

Contact the school and they will be made available for you. Alternatively, you can leave a message on your child's phone for them to look at when the school day ends.

### **What if my child needs their phone for medical reasons?**

All students will be supported to engage with the policy through differentiation as outlined in their Health Care Plan. If this is a concern of yours, please contact the school.

### **What if my child has a part-time job and their employer needs to contact them?**

The employer may contact the school and a message given to the student.

### **What if my child needs to check their timetable?**

Hard copy timetables will be provided and students may access Sentral through their BYOD device.

### **What if my child needs to contact me?**

If a child wishes to contact a parent at recess or lunch they may request this through the front office.

### **How will I know if my child is sick?**

If your child is injured or sick, they may present to sick bay and the office will contact parents.

### **Can my child use their phone for schoolwork?**

No. They may only use a laptop or similar as per BYOD policy.

### **Is it safe for my child to bring their phone to school?**

The school assumes no responsibility for the safety of phones while at school.

### **Can my child use phones for music if the phone is away?**

No. Earphones and similar are also prohibited during the entire school day, including breaks.

### **What if my child's phone rings while in their bag?**

This may result in a phone being *confiscated*. *It is the student's responsibility to ensure the phone is off and away*

### **Can my child use a smartwatch or similar to contact me?**

No. A smartwatch is treated as a mobile phone for purposes of communication.

### **What if my child needs to leave early?**

This can be arranged through a parent contacting the school.

### **Can my child use their phone on excursions, camps etc?**

No, these are school-based events. Communication will still be made through school channels.