



Oatley Senior Campus

STUDENT MOBILE PHONE MANAGEMENT PLAN

[Reviewed August 2023]

Students' use of Mobile Phones in Schools Management Plan

Department of Education Policy

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 *Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools* Policy.

1.1 Students are not allowed to use mobile phones at school, with the exception of recess and lunch.

1.2 Principals will manage individual requests from parents and/or carers, and students, for any exemptions to the policy.

1.3 Principals may allow students to use mobile phones in specific circumstances, such as for an educational purpose, to achieve student health and wellbeing outcomes, or as part of reasonable adjustment to enable students with specific needs to participate in education on the same basis as other students.

Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus Mobile Phone Management Plan

The NSW Government has announced restrictions on the use of mobile phones in NSW high schools beginning in Term 4, 2023.

Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus will be making changes to the way mobile phones are accessed by students during the school day. The new system is being implemented to increase focus in classrooms, remove distractions and to also promote positive social interaction, while reducing the potential for online bullying.

Rationale and Objectives

Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus 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.

Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus 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.

Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus has elected to use the following approach. All mobile phones will be 'off and away' for the full school day, with the exception of 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. 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.

Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus recognises that we have a unique student population as a senior secondary campus in NSW. Senior Secondary Principals are able to use their judgement around the application of the mobile phone ban in our settings to make sure students' individual needs are effectively addressed and supported.

Exemptions

Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus understands there may be students who have a medical and / or wellbeing needs which will require them to access a mobile phone as defined in this plan. The Principal will meet with each student and their parents and carers as required 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. This information will be disseminated to teachers via email and Sentral.

Contacting students

Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus understands there will always be emergencies when parents need to get in contact with students or vice versa during the school day. This should be kept to a minimum to avoid disturbing the students' learning. Parents and carers can make contact with the school through the school office (8567 3700 or oatleysnr-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au) and students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office if urgent.

Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus Mobile Phone Processes

Mobile phones and associated accessories owned by students are brought to school at their own risk. The school does not accept responsibility for lost or damaged student mobile phones or accessories.

Student's mobile phones and any associated accessories, including headphones and bluetooth devices which are brought to school must be turned off and away in bags and are not to be used unless specifically instructed to do so by the teacher. Smartwatch notifications are to be turned off during the school day.

Legislation exists in NSW regarding the illegal use and posting of private information and photographs. The taking of photos or video is prohibited at school unless, with teacher permission, it is for educational reasons and with the permission of those being photographed or videoed. Phones must not be used to send intimidating, harassing or unpleasant messages. This can lead to suspension.

The senior executive may revoke a student's privilege of bringing or using mobile phones whilst at school.

Parent responsibility:

Students are responsible for following the *Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools* Policy and procedures as set out by GRC Oatley. Parents are requested to support the school and their student by not texting or phoning during the school day. To contact your student, ring the front office and we will make arrangements for them to contact you.

Student responsibility:

- To follow the *Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools* Policy.

- To follow the Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus use of Student Mobile phone plan.
- To follow teacher instructions.

Teacher responsibility:

- To instruct students to turn off and put away their phones in their bags before students enter the class.
- Clearly articulate the use of phones by students for educational purposes.
- To follow the Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus use of Student Mobile phone management plan and implement consequences as required.
- Staff are to model appropriate mobile phone use.

Strategies to manage inappropriate student behaviour

Individual teacher behaviour management practices suited to older adolescents are supplemented by the Two Warning system and Faculty Contracts and Head Teacher referrals in the first instance. Flow charts are included in the Staff Handbook.

Consequences:

- First offence: Verbal reminder, phone in bag and warning 1.
- Second offence: Phone gaol and warning 2.
- Third offence: Warning 3, student sent to DP to hand in phone. Student is placed on a faculty contract by the Head Teacher.
- Fourth Offence: Student sent to Principal to hand in phone. Formal caution issued. Parents contacted to pick-up the phone.
- Further offences will be dealt with under the DoE Suspension and Expulsion Policy.

GRC OATLEY MOBILE PHONE PROCEDURES FLOWCHART

