NSW Department of Education

Regents Park Public School

Digital devices and online services plan

Purpose and scope

This plan outlines our school's approach to managing student use of digital devices and online services to ensure safe, responsible and respectful use of these. It covers student use of digital devices and online services in school-related settings, including both school-provided and personal devices and services.

Digital devices and online services are an important part of everyday life, shaping the way children and young people learn, communicate, work and play. Learning environments should support students to develop technological, social and emotional competencies. This support should maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of digital environments and prepare students for life beyond school.

Mobile phone management at Regents Park Public School

- Students are not allowed to use mobile phones at school, including during recess and lunch.
- The principal will manage individual requests from parents and/or carers, and students, for any exemptions to the policy.
- The principal 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.

Definitions

Term	Definition
Digital devices	include laptops, tablets, wearable technology (such as smartwatches and headphones) and other devices that can receive, store, process and share digital information and connect to applications (apps), websites and other online services For mobile phone management, see the Student Use of Mobile Phones in Schools policy.
Educational purposes	any use approved by school staff that supports student learning, wellbeing and educational outcomes
Online services	include digital classrooms, chat and messaging, online games, virtual reality, interactive online learning activities, social media and other online spaces

School-related settings	include school grounds, school-related activities and outside of school where there is a clear and close connection between the school and the conduct of students, such as excursions and camps. This connection may exist in situations where: there is discussion about school taking place outside of school hours; a student is wearing their school uniform but is not on school premises; a relationship between parties commenced at school; students are online in digital classrooms; and where online contact has flow on consequences at school and duty of care requires the school to respond once an incident is reported

Our school approach

Using digital devices and online services for educational purposes

Guidelines for Use:

1. Once at school the phone should be handed into the school office and turned off. If the phone is seen by a teacher, it will be taken and kept securely at the office and returned at the end of the day.

2. The use of personal digital devices including smartwatches is restricted whilst on school grounds. An exemption will apply where the use of digital devices and online services is required for medical reasons or for reasonable adjustments made as part of a student's individual education plan.

Responsibility for mobile phones:

Students bringing mobile phones to school at their own risk – the school and school staff members

will not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to mobile phones or for investigating loss

or damage.

Permission and register of phones and smartwatches:

Parents need to provide permission for their child to bring a mobile phone and/ or wear a smartwatch to school and the school is required to keep a register of students brining these to school.

Inappropriate use of digital devices and online services

Inappropriate use of a digital device will be managed in accordance with our Regents Park Public School Behaviour Management Plan.

A digital device will be used inappropriately if it:

• Disrupts or is likely to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the

school, or

• Threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or wellbeing of any person, or

• Is in breach of the law.

Inappropriate use of mobile phones and smartwatches will include students using them to bully,

intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video

or other data transfer system available on the device.

If students and staff repeatedly engage in activities, using the school's ICT network, that result in copyright infringement then the department may suspend ICT network access privileges.

Medical or wellbeing exemptions to digital device use

Exemptions to any part of this procedure may apply for some students in some circumstances. Parents and carers can request an exemption, and these will be considered on a case-by-case basis and granted when required by law or at the principal's discretion.

An exemption will apply where the use of digital devices and online services is required for medical reasons or for reasonable adjustments made as part of a student's individual education plan.

Reasonable adjustments for students with disability

Some students require reasonable adjustments to their learning and support needs under the Disability Standards for Education 2005. A disability may include a medical condition impacting a student.

The principal will consult, as appropriate, the student, and their parents or carers, and any external service providers as needed, in determining the adjustments for the student. Reasonable adjustments may include access to digital technologies to participate in the education on the same basis as a student without disability. This will be documented as part of an existing student learning plan, as determined by the principal.

Our communication approach

Students and parents will be informed about this approach through

- through the school newsletter
- on the school website :- https://regentspk-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/
- Completing a student digital device registration form via school bytes or copy from the school office.

Handling complaints

If a student, and parent or carer has any complaints relating to this strategy, the first step is to follow the school's complaints process. If the issue cannot be resolved, they should access the Making a complaint about our schools guide.

The department's Complaints Handling policy also provides further information and support for both the school community and staff.

Changes since previous update

Last updated	Description of changes	Approved by
22/09/2025	New Mobile Phone Policy	Jodie Landon