

Turramurra Public School Policy for the Use of Mobile Phones (and similar devices) in School by Students

Updated December 2023

Turramurra Public School Policy for the use of mobile phones, smart watches, recording devices, cameras, and other similar devices in schools.

Introduction

There is a range of technology available today including mobile phones, recording devices, smart watches, cameras and other similar devices. Students are not allowed to use mobile phones at school, including during recess and lunch. Exemptions may be granted by a principal or teacher, including allowing students to use a device for an educational purpose (PDF 9739 KB), or as part of a reasonable adjustment (PDF 97.9 KB) for student learning and wellbeing.

Turramurra Public School acknowledges that students may need to bring a mobile telephone to school for reasons relating to their safety in travelling to and from school. All mobile devices must be turned off and stored in the students bag. Smart watches must be in aeroplane mode. Where students bring a mobile phones, recording devices, smart watch, cameras and other similar devices to school:

Student Responsibilities

- The student must take full responsibility for these devices. The school or staff will not be responsible for their loss, theft or damage or for investigating loss or damage. Students who bring them to school do so at their own risk.
- Students will use their mobile phone in a way that reflects the school expectations of Personal Best, Responsible and Respectful Learner.
- If students are wearing a smart watch, the watch **MUST** be in airplane mode during time at school.

- Students are required to keep their mobile phone in their school bag at all times whilst they are on the school site. Students are not permitted to use mobile phones when on the school site without prior permission from the Principal.
- Students must not use mobile phones or other devices to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school. Such activities may incur disciplinary action including suspension.
- Students must not use mobile phones or other devices to threaten, bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the telephone or for any illegal activity. Such activities may incur disciplinary action including suspension.
- Under no circumstances will inappropriate use of mobile phones with cameras be tolerated. Students found to be using any camera contrary to this acceptable use policy will be dealt with under the school discipline policy. Disciplinary action will be taken in all cases.

Inappropriate use of a mobile phone includes:

- using it in a way that disrupts or is likely to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school or institute
- bullying, intimidating or otherwise harassing others through SMS or text messaging or through photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the phone
- recording of conversations, including lessons, without the knowledge and permission of the teacher or those involved in the conversation
- downloading or otherwise accessing inappropriate material on the internet such as child abuse or pornographic or other offensive material
- filming of fights or other criminal behaviour involving students that occur at school, during school activities or while on the way to or from school

- using it in a way that threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or wellbeing of any person
- use that is in breach of any law.

Improper use of mobile phones or other electronic devices may result in:

- Disciplinary measures as determined by the school's discipline policy.
- Confiscation of the mobile phone or other electronic device until such time as their parent or caregiver is able to attend school to collect the device.
- Other disciplinary action, including reporting to police, in cases where students have bullied, threatened, or harassed other students or staff via the mobile phone or other personal communication device or where the device has been used to take photographs or display inappropriate material.

Emergency Contact

- If a parent or caregiver needs to contact a student at school because of an emergency, they are required to call the school's main office and a message will be sent to the student.
- If a student needs to make emergency contact with anyone, they must do so through the school's main office, not from a personal mobile device.

Conditions of Use

To retain the privilege of bringing a mobile phone to school, students and parents must agree to, and abide by, these conditions of use which have been endorsed by school staff and the Parent and Citizens' Association of Turramurra Public School.

1. Students must not lend a phone to another student for use as a phone, for text (or picture) messaging or for use as a camera or video recording device. The student who owns the phone will be held responsible for its use.

2.. It is the school's responsibility to contact parents in the event of illness, injury or behaviour incidents. Students are expected to continue the immediate reporting of incidents such as accident/illness or behaviour to teaching staff during school hours for their action.

NSW Department of Education Policies

- <https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2020-0471?refid=285859>
- Associated Documents Legal Issues Bulletin no. 35 revised March 2013: The use of mobile phones, portable computer games, recording devices and cameras in schools.
- Legal Issues Bulletin no. 56 issued April 2015: Confiscation of student property Online Communication Services: acceptable usage for school students
- <https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2023-0480>