

Students use of Mobile Phones in Schools Management Plan



Rationale and Objectives

Orana Heights Public School supports the restrictions of mobile phones in accordance with the NSW Department of Education: Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools policy (<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2023-0480>). 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. Orana Heights Public School 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.

Orana Heights Public School has elected to use the following approach. All mobile phones and related accessories will be collected and stored in the classroom at the commencement of each school day and returned to students at the end of the school day. Students will not be permitted to use their phones, or related accessories, during any time of the school day including recess or lunch. 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

Orana Heights Public School understands 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. The principal will meet with each student and their parents/carers with the class teacher and Learning and Support Teacher 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

Orana Heights Public School understands 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, with the exception of emergencies, to avoid disturbing the students' learning. Parents and carers can make contact with the school through the school office on P: 6884 9188 and students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office if urgent.