

April 2025

Use of Mobile Phones by Students at School Policy

Taroona High School

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Version 1.0 – 17/03/2025

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1 Purpose

To provide schools with support and additional information on the requirements for implementing the Department of Education policy on the *Use of Mobile Phones by Students at School*.

This document should be read and developed in association with the Department of Education policy on the *Use of Mobile Phones by Students at School*.

2 Policy Statement

The Department of Education does not permit the use of mobile phones by students in Tasmanian Government Schools unless for the approved exemptions outlined below.

It is important to note that it is not a requirement at Taroona High School for students to have a mobile phone at school. Some schools may be implementing the Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Policy and processes and this would fall under the approved exemption of direct teacher instruction.

Taroona High School recognises that an increasing number of parents/carers who for safety, security and/or emergency purposes wish to provide their child/children with mobile phones, smart watches and earphones. This policy details the restriction and management of mobile phones at Taroona High School.

CONDITIONS OF USE

- Students must not use mobile phones from the start to the end of the school day from Kindergarten to Year 12 – off and away all day.
- Students must have their phones switched off and appropriately stored from the start to the end of the school day.
- Students with 'smart watches' must have them set to 'aeroplane mode'.
- Students may only use earphones if attached to a laptop and with permission from the class teacher.
- Mobile phones may be switched off and taken to a member of the school's senior staff for safe storage before the start of the school day and collected at the end of the school day.
- School trips, camps and excursions are deemed to be the same as being on site with mobile phone/smart watch usage following the same rules and expectations outlined in this document.

3 Exemptions

- Requests for exemptions must be submitted in writing to the Principal for consideration every year.
- Taroona High School students may only use their mobile phone for an approved exemption as listed below:
- For students with a reasonable adjustment to a learning program as listed in their learning plan because of a disability and/or learning difficulty.
- For students with health conditions where a mobile phone is used to monitor the condition.
- For students who are young carers.

- For students undertaking school activities outside of school hours that are not on school campuses as agreed or outlined by the duty teacher
- Where students have been given direct instruction by a teacher to use their mobile phone for educational purposes (including under the BYOT policy/procedures).
- For students experiencing extenuating circumstances other than the above, where agreed by the principal or delegate.

COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

- While at Taroom High School students are the responsibility of the school. All communication between parents/carers and students, during school hours, must occur through the school office.
- Taroom High School has a duty of care for all students while they are at school. In emergencies, where students need to get in contact with parents/carers, students are to notify the appropriate school staff. If parents/carers need to contact their children, they are asked to contact the school office directly.
- Where a student has been granted an exemption, the mobile phone and smart watch can be used by the student for the purposes of the exemption only. Phone and smart watch use will be monitored by school staff. When not in use, for the purposes of the exemption, the phone and smart watch must be switched off and stored, in accordance with this policy.

4 Non-compliance with this policy

- Non-compliance with this policy will be managed in accordance with the school's Student Behaviour Policy and Pathways.
- Students who do not comply with this policy may have their mobile phone confiscated and held at the school office. The parent/carer may be informed and requested to collect the mobile phone at their earliest convenience.
- In the case of repeated inappropriate mobile phone and smart watch use by a student, the Principal or their delegate may request the student not bring the mobile phone or smart watch to school.
- Further disciplinary action, in accordance with the Taroom High School Student Behaviour Policy and Pathways may be a result of repeated non-compliance and/or depending on the circumstances of the non-compliance.

5 Supporting information

- Frequently Asked Questions for Families

STORAGE OPTIONS

Taroona High School has determined that student mobile phones must be stored:

- Mobile phone is kept on person but switched off and unseen.
- In student bags and switched off.
- Kept in locker (with door locked) and switched off.
- Mobile phone is handed in to senior staff, labelled and secured in lockable cabinets.

6 Definitions

Mobile phone

Is a mobile device with access to a cellular (telecommunications) system, with or without a physical connection to a network. This includes smart watches, tablets, and associated listening accessories, such as, but not limited to, headphones and earbuds.

Taroona High School

Where the wording states Taroona High – this includes the 7-10 campus in Meath Avenue and the THS@UTAS 11-12 campus in Sandy Bay, Tasmania.

Responsibilities: Must and May

- The word 'MUST' is to be interpreted as being mandatory.
- The words 'is to' and 'are to' are to be interpreted as directory (highly recommended).
- The word 'may' is to be interpreted as being discretionary or enabling as the context requires.

School hours

Is the official start time of the school day, to the official end time of the school day.

At Taroona High School, this is from 8.30am to 2.40pm and inclusive of recess, lunch and between timetabled lessons.

7 Legislation

- Secretary's Instruction No 3 for Unacceptable Behaviour of Students and Volunteers at, and Visitors to, State Schools or School Activities
- Secretary's Instruction No 4 for Suspension, Exclusion, Expulsion or Prohibition of State School Students

Internal Information Only*

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Last Significant Review: 17 March 2025

Review Due: 1 April 2027

This Document Replaced: New policy