



CHS Students' Use of Mobile Phones

Rationale and Objectives

All schools in NSW, including Caringbah High School, are implementing 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. 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. Caringbah High 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.

Caringbah High School has elected to use the following approach to implement this new policy: all mobile phones will be 'off and away' for the full school day, including recess and lunch. This will mean that students will have a responsibility to turn their phone off and store it safely in their school bag for the entire course of the school day. This is an approved NSW Department of Education option and will limit unnecessary distractions to ensure every student maximises their learning and social growth in a safe and supportive environment.

Exemptions

Caringbah High School understands there may be students who have a medical need which will require them to access a mobile phone. An application for exemption can be made and the Principal will meet with each student and their parents to determine if an exemption will be permitted.

Contacting students

Caringbah High School understands there will always be emergencies when parents need to get in contact with students or vice versa during the school day. Parents and carers can contact the school through the school office on 9524 3859 and the office will send urgent messages to student. Similarly, students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office if urgent.