



Mobile Phone Policy and School Management Plan

Rationale and Objectives

Cronulla High 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-management-schools/student-use-of-mobile-phones>). 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. Cronulla 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.

Application and Scope

Cronulla High School use the 'off and away' approach for the full school day, including recess and lunch. This means that students who choose to bring their mobile phone to school must turn their phone off and store it safely in their **school bag** before entering the school grounds. 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. Student's mobile phones are brought to school at their own risk.

Phones must be off and away the entire time a student is on school grounds or on a school activity. This includes the following:

- Before school, recess and lunch
- During class time
- During sport
- In Sick Bay, school toilets, library and at the school canteen
- On all school excursions, including sports carnivals and camps

In rare circumstances and only under direct instruction from the supervising teacher, a time-limited exception may be made. This may include a pre-approved learning activity, contact from a late running excursion or other. In these one-off circumstances students will be given clear instructions for mobile phone use.

Phones must be turned **off**, not on silent, as loudly vibrating phones may disturb the learning environment

Students will **not** be able to use phones to pay for items at the canteen or the Front Office.
Bank cards or cash will be accepted.

Headphones

The same requirements and consequences which apply to mobile phones also apply to headphones. This includes the need for students to always have them stored in their bags. There may be times when headphones are permitted for educational purposes, such as independent viewing of educational material or completion of NAPLAN tests. If allowed to use headphones, teachers will explain the expectations and the requirement to put headphones back into bags once the learning activity has concluded.

Exemptions

Cronulla High School understands there may be exceptional circumstances whereby a very small number of students have a valid reason which will require them to access a mobile phone. For example, mobile phones used to monitor blood sugar levels and the administration of insulin. Parents who believe that their child requires an exemption will need to contact the student's Deputy Principal to discuss options. If applying for an exemption parents must complete the "Application for Mobile Phone Exemption" form, including supporting documentation. If an exemption is granted a "Student Management Plan" will be created in consultation with the school, student and parents. Until an exemption is formally accepted and management plan created, students must follow all elements of this policy.

Contacting students

Cronulla High School understands there will always be emergencies when parents need to get in contact with students during the school day. We try to keep this to a minimum, with the exception of emergencies, to avoid disturbing the students' learning. As always, parents and carers can make contact with the school through the school office on (02) 9523 4017 and students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office if urgent. Students who feel unwell during the school day can approach a teacher who will give them permission to attend Sick Bay and staff will contact parents if required.

Disciplinary Action

Students are aware of the school rules and will be required to comply with them. As with all school rules, non-compliance will result in appropriate action being taken. Breaches will accumulate over a semester and will reset at the commencement of each new semester.

The following action will be taken if a mobile phone is seen or heard:

First Offence

- Student will have their phone confiscated immediately
- Phone can be collected by the student at the end of the school day
- An Afternoon Detention will be issued
- Parents will be notified

Second Offence

- Student will have their phone confiscated immediately
- Phone can be collected by the student at the end of the school day
- An Afternoon Detention will be issued
- A Formal Caution to Suspend will be issued
- Parents will be contacted to discuss the repeated non-compliance

Third Offence

- Student will have their phone confiscated immediately
- Phone can be collected by a parent only
- Student will be Suspended from school
- The school, student and a parent will meet face-to-face to discuss the ongoing non-compliance

Further Offences

- Students who continue to breach the Mobile Phone policy after being suspended from school will have further consequences imposed

If a student has their phone confiscated for breaching this policy, they must comply immediately. Failure to do so will result in additional disciplinary action being taken.