

**Wentworth Falls Public School**  
**Mobile Device Policy**



**Rationale and Context**

In December 2018, the NSW Department of Education and Communities announced that the use of mobile devices during school hours will be restricted in NSW public primary schools. The restriction is to begin implementation during the 2019 school year.

The use of telecommunications technology has become the norm rather than the exception in society today. Students, parents and teachers are accessing this facility on a regular basis. While technology brings many benefits, our core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an environment free from unnecessary distraction or disruption. Therefore the school discourages the bringing of mobile telephones (and devices that have similar functions, such as cellular watches, tablets and iPods) to school by students. However, we accept there are times when it might be deemed important for a student to bring a mobile device. We are therefore prepared to allow them on the premises only within the parameters of this policy and only when it is deemed necessary by parents and caregivers.

In this policy, 'mobile device' means a mobile phone *or any similar device with / without added features such as recording, camera, internet access and data transfer as well as standard features such as calling or messaging, including such devices as smartwatches, tablets and MP3 or iPod.*

**Students:**

- bring mobile devices to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school will not be responsible for any loss or damage.
- bring mobile devices to school only with the permission of their parent or caregiver.
- must hand their mobile devices into the office for the day upon arriving at the school.
- must collect the mobile devices after school has finished for the day.
- are not to use mobile devices during school hours without the permission of the executive and only in exceptional circumstances.

If a student does not hand a mobile device to the office and leaves it in their bag, or takes it out of their bag, staff are to ask the student to give them the mobile device straight away. The staff will ensure the device is taken to the office as soon as practical.

**Parents, Visitors and Contractors**

- are requested not to contact their child on a mobile device during school hours. As is long-standing practice in our school, the school office can take calls and relay important messages to students.
- are asked to turn their mobile device to silent in the classroom and during formal interviews and not to use their device to film or photograph students in class.

Ongoing exemptions from this policy can only be approved by the principal and only in exceptional circumstances. For example, some students with disability rely on the use of a mobile device and may be exempt from some or all of the usual policy restrictions. The provision of reasonable adjustments, such as use of a mobile device, is established through a collaborative planning process. School staff will continue to consult with the student, parents and carers to ensure the personalised learning and support needs of students with disabilities and additional learning/ support needs are addressed.

If a student uses a mobile device in an inappropriate manner or time, discipline procedures in accordance with the Student Welfare Policy will be taken. Inappropriate use includes disruption of the learning environment or threatening the safety, privacy or wellbeing of any person or being in breach of any NSW state or Australian federal law. Failure to comply with this policy will result in further action in line with the Student Welfare Policy.