



Mobile Phone Guidelines

Rationale

When used appropriately, mobile phones and communication devices offer students, their parents and staff advantages in terms of ease of communication and a sense of personal safety. While discouraging students from bringing mobile phones to school, Brighton-Le-Sands Public School accepts that some parents give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. However, mobile phones and communication devices have the capacity to have a negative impact on the learning environment and when used inappropriately can put the safety and wellbeing of students at risk. The widespread ownership of mobile phones and communication devices among young people requires that the staff, students and parents at Brighton-Le-Sands PS take steps to ensure mobile phones and communication devices are used in a responsible and safe manner.

Procedure

All mobile phone and communication devices arrangements will comply with the guidelines set out in the NSW Department of Education Policy.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2020-0471>

Brighton-Le-Sands Public School supports the restrictions of mobile phones in accordance with the NSW Department of Education. 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. Brighton-Le-Sands 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.

Brighton-Le-Sands Public School has elected to use the following approach. All mobile phones and communication devices will be handed in and stored in the School Office for the full school day, including recess and 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.

The purpose of this is to ensure that:

- mobile phone and Smart Watch use does not disrupt the teaching and learning environment for any student or teacher;
- potential risks to student safety and wellbeing posed by inappropriate use of mobile phones and Smart Watches can be identified and addressed;
- students, staff and parents have a clear understanding of school guidelines and personal responsibilities related to the appropriate use of mobile phones and Smart Watches.

Guidelines for acceptable use of mobile phones and communication devices

Students

- All mobile phones brought to school are preferred to be labelled with the student name and class.
- Students with parent permission to bring a mobile phone to school must keep the phone turned off during school hours and during any school function out of school hours eg. discos and excursions.
- Students are requested to leave their mobile phones in the front office during school hours. However, the school accepts no responsibility for phones damaged or lost from the office.
- If bringing a **Smart Watch** the Smart Watch is not to be accessed while at school or when under the supervision of school staff at any time.
- Students are not permitted to have a mobile phone on their person, or to use mobile phones, during school hours.
- Under no circumstances, may a student send or receive calls or SMS messages to or from anyone whilst at school. In cases of emergency, calls must be sent and received through the school office so that the school is aware of any student welfare issues.
- Inappropriate use of mobile phones and communication devices is not permitted. Inappropriate use of mobile phones and communication devices includes students using them to bully, intimidate or otherwise harass others through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on a mobile phone and communication devices.
- Students misusing personal mobile phones and communication devices at school or causing a nuisance will be brought to the attention of the Principal. The phone will be confiscated and the child's parents will need to come to the school to collect the phone.
- Under the "Department of Education and Training – Suspension and Expulsion of school student's policy" a student may be suspended for transmitting abuse electronically by email or SMS messages whilst at school.
- The Principal may revoke a student's privilege of bringing or using mobile phones and communication devices whilst at school.

Staff

During teaching time, while on playground duty and during meetings, mobile phones/Smart Watches should be switched off or put on 'silent'.

It is reasonable for a staff member to take photographs of students or student work during class time, sport, excursions, camps, rehearsals etc. and upload to a share point. Once photos are uploaded, the photos must be deleted from personal devices.

For Parents and Community Members

At all official school functions, during meetings or when assisting in classrooms mobile phones/Smart Watches should be switched off or put on 'silent'.

Parents should also be mindful of uploading photographs of students to social media sites and ask Permission from other parents/guardians before doing so.

Related Technology

Related technology such as portable computer games, ipods and other similar devices are not to be brought to school. The school accepts no responsibility for the security of these items and the procedures applying to the inappropriate use of mobile phones will apply equally to these devices.

Exemptions

Brighton-Le-Sands 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 and carers/the learning and support teacher will contact parents and carers 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

Brighton-Le-Sands 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 and students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office if urgent.