



ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL

Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools

NSW DoE Student Use of Mobile Phones in Schools:

Direction and guidance on the safe and responsible use of Mobile Phones in NSW Public Schools.

1. Policy Statement:

- 1.1 Students are not allowed to use mobile phones at school, including during recess and lunch.
- 1.2 Principals will manage individual requests from parents and/or carers, and students, for any exemptions to the policy.

2. Context:

- 2.1 Learning environments should support students to develop technological, social, and emotional competencies. This support should maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of digital environments and prepare students for life beyond school.

Students' Use of Mobile Phones at OHS

Rationale and Objectives:

Orange High School (OHS) supports 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 well-being. Restricting mobile phone use at school aims to increase focus in classrooms, remove distractions and promote positive social interactions while reducing the potential for online bullying.

OHS 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 prepares students for life beyond school. We foster a safe learning environment that supports and enhances each child's social and emotional health through our well-being and learning support teams.

OHS has elected to use the following approach to implement this mandate.

- All mobile phones are required to be placed in a locked mobile phone pouch for the full school day, including recess and lunch.

This will mean that students will have a responsibility to place it in the locked pouch and store it safely in their school bag for the course of the school day. 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.

Exemptions:

Students with medical needs may apply for an exemption. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Parents/Carers wishing to apply for a medical exemption will need to provide a written request, supported with medical documentation (form completed by medical professional), to the Principal at orange-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

These requests will be assessed on a case-by-case scenario. Exemptions will be granted in consultation with teachers, students, and families, and require an application and agreed implementation plan, which will be completed during this consultation process. Exemptions will only be granted to students with significant needs.

Contacting Students:

OHS 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, apart from emergencies, to avoid disturbing the students' learning.

Parents and carers can contact the school through the school office at 02 6362 3444 and students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office or their supervising Deputy Principal if urgent.

In Summary:

- The new mobile devices management plan at Orange High School will apply to mobile phones and will occur during all school hours, including break times such as recess and lunch. Access to mobile phones during excursions will be dealt with on a case-by-case scenario. Students will still be able to carry their phones while travelling to and from school.
- Students will be responsible for locking their Mobile Phones in their phone pouches each morning when they arrive on the school grounds.
- On their arrival at school all students will lock their phone in their phone pouch. At the commencement of Period 1, students will place their locked phone pouch containing their Mobile Phones on their desks where the teachers will inspect that they are locked.
- All students will receive a free phone pouch that is their responsibility to manage. Should a student misplace, damage, or lose the pouch they will be responsible for the replacement cost of \$20.
- Any student who brings a mobile phone to school will be responsible for ensuring the above conditions and courtesies are observed. Incidents involving students failing to adhere to the Students' Use of Mobile Phone Policy will result in consequences in accordance with the Orange High School Discipline Policy.
- As with all valuable items, students are strongly discouraged from bringing mobile phones and electronic devices to school due to the potential for loss, theft, or damage of the item. Orange High School cannot accept responsibility for the loss, theft, or damage to such items, including mobile phones. These items are brought to school at your own risk.

Students Must:

- Lock Phones in Phone Pouches when you arrive on school grounds.
- Switch off mobile phones prior to them being placed in the Phone Pouch.
- Keep mobile phones in your school bags during lessons unless directed by the teacher to use them.
- When granted permission to use your mobile phone, ensure they are always used appropriately.
- Unlock your Phone Pouch at the conclusion of the school day.

Staff Will:

- Inspect Phone Pouches at the commencement of Period 1 or at times they choose.
- Ensure the Students' Use of Mobile Phone Policy is followed during the school day.
- Follow the school's discipline code should students choose not to adhere to the Students' Use of Mobile Phone Policy. (See Consequences below).

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THE STUDENTS' USE OF MOBILE PHONE POLICY

	CONSEQUENCES
Warning (first week of Term 4 - implementation period)	<p>If students are seen breaching the Mobile phone policy, they will be warned to comply and immediately lock their mobile phones in their Mobile Phone pouch.</p> <p>If the student has forgotten their pouch, their phone will be placed in the phone box in the middle office for the day.</p>
1st Offence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The student's mobile phone is confiscated and placed in the phone box in the middle office. - The student's first Mobile Phone Breach is recorded on SENTRAL. - The student's Parent/Carer is contacted and informed of the breach. - The student will collect their phone from the middle office at the end of the school day.
2nd Offence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The student's mobile phone is confiscated and placed in the phone box in the middle office. - The student's second Mobile Phone Breach is recorded on SENTRAL. - The student's Parent/Carer is contacted and informed of the breach. - The parent/carer will need to arrange a time with the supervising Deputy Principal to collect their child's phone. - The student is issued with a Formal Caution (Warning of Suspension).
3rd Offence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The student's mobile phone is confiscated and placed in the phone box in the middle office. - The student's third Mobile Phone Breach is recorded on SENTRAL. - The student's Parent/Carer is contacted and informed of the breach. - The student will be suspended for two-days.
4th Offence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After the third offense, this process will not automatically refresh. It will refresh on a calendar year. - Every further breach of the Students' Use of Mobile Phones policy may result in suspension. - The length of each suspension will continue to escalate.

NB:

- **A Head Teacher or Deputy Principal will be called to support teachers if any student refuses to adhere to this policy. Failure to comply with any of these actions could result in an immediate formal caution/suspension**

PHONE POUCH IMPLEMENTATION: FAQ - STUDENTS

What if I don't possess a mobile phone or have not brought it to school that day?	There is no requirement to bring a mobile phone to school.
Can I use my phone before and after the school day?	As soon as you arrive at school, all mobile phones should be switched off and locked in your personal mobile phone pouch. Mobile phones cannot be accessed until you leave the school grounds at the end of the day.
What if I need to contact my parents/carer during the school day?	Students will be allowed to call home via the front office or via their Deputy Principal.
What if my parents/carer needs to contact me in the event of an emergency?	In the case of an emergency, your parent/carer can contact the school via the front office - (02) 6362 3444
What if I have a medical condition that requires me to use my phone to record or monitor medical information	<p>If you require the use of a mobile phone for medical or other reasons, you will be granted an exemption and the details of any exemption will be added to your learning support or individual education plan.</p> <p>You, your teachers, and parents/carers will be made aware of this exemption. Exemptions must be authorised by the Principal.</p>
I use my phone to purchase food from the canteen or buy uniform items.	Students are encouraged to bring their physical Debit Cards to school with them to enable cashless transactions to bring small amounts of cash.
I have a job. How can my employer contact me about work shifts?	<p>Students should alert their employers about the school's mobile phone strategy and advise that they may not see any messages the employer sends until after school.</p> <p>Alternative methods of contact such as email could also be used.</p>
What happens if I lose or damage my pouch?	<p>The school will fund and provide all students with their first mobile phone pouch.</p> <p>If a pouch is lost or damaged, parents/carers and students will be responsible for purchasing a new pouch from the school office for \$20.</p>
What happens if I forgot to bring my Pouch?	Your mobile phone can be locked in a phone box in the middle office for the day.