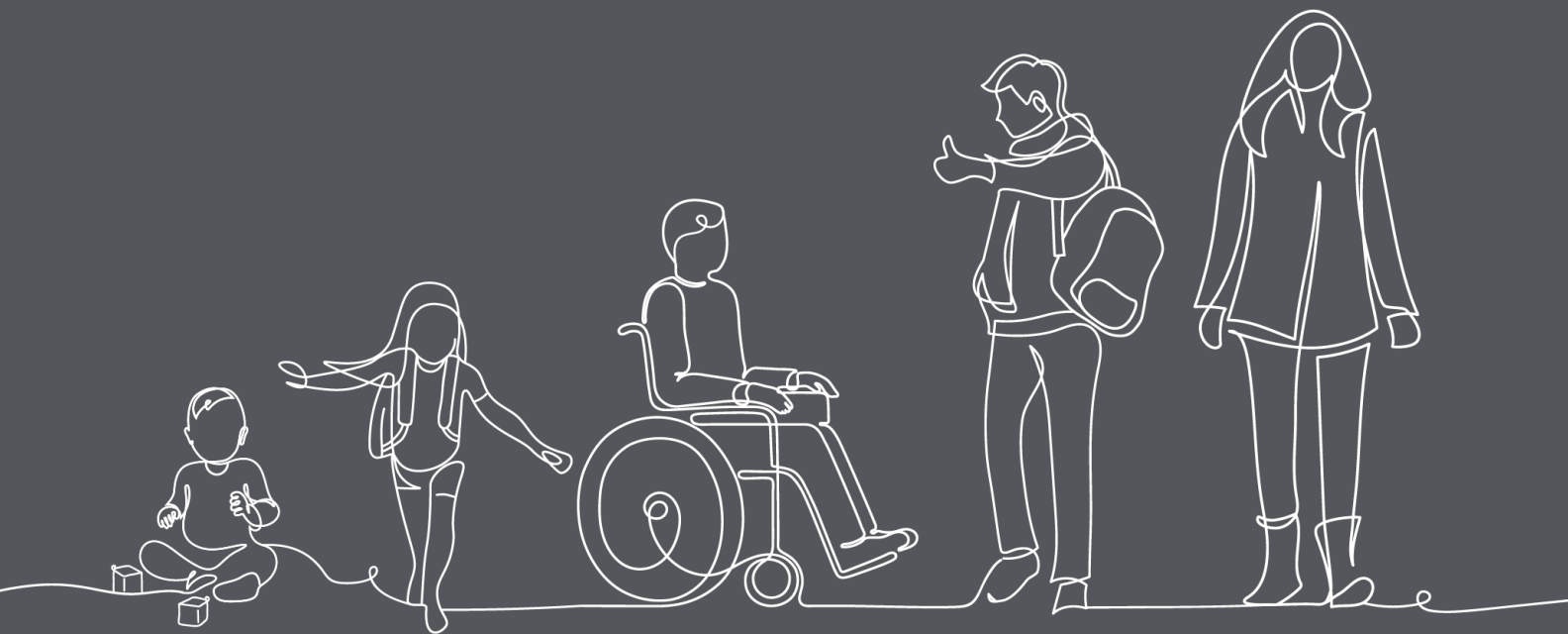


# Use of Mobile Phones by Students at School Policy



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# 1 Purpose

To provide schools with support and additional information on the requirements for implementing the Department of Education policy on the *Use of Mobile Phones by Students at School*.

This document should be read and developed in association with the Department of Education policy on the *Use of Mobile Phones by Students at School*.

## 2 Policy Statement

The Department of Education does not permit the use of mobile phones by students in Tasmanian Government Schools unless for the approved exemptions outlined below.

It is important to note that it is not a requirement at Tarooma High School for students to have a mobile phone at school. Some schools may be implementing the Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Policy and processes and this would fall under the approved exemption of direct teacher instruction.

Tarooma High School recognises that an increasing number of parents/carers who for safety, security and/or emergency purposes wish to provide their child/children with mobile phones. This policy details the restriction and management of mobile phones at Tarooma High School.

### CONDITIONS OF USE

- Students must not use mobile phones from the start to the end of the school day from Kindergarten to Year 12.
- Students must have their phones switched off and appropriately stored from the start to the end of the school day.
- Students with 'smart watches' must have them set to 'aeroplane mode'.
- Students (Years 7-12) at Tarooma High School are permitted to have mobile phones in their possession during the school day. However, they must be switched off and neither seen nor heard.
- Mobile phones may be switched off and taken to a member of the school's senior staff for safe storage before the start of the school day and collected at the end of the school day.

## 3 Exemptions

- Requests for exemptions must be submitted to the Principal for consideration.
- Tarooma High School students may only use their mobile phone for an approved exemption as listed below:
- For students with a reasonable adjustment to a learning program because of a disability and/or learning difficulty.
- For students with health conditions where a mobile phone is used to monitor the condition.
- For students who are young carers.
- For students undertaking school activities outside of school hours that are not on school campuses.

- Where students have been given direct instruction by a teacher to use their mobile phone for educational purposes (including under the BYOT policy/procedures).
- For students experiencing extenuating circumstances other than the above, where agreed by the principal or their delegate.

#### COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

- While at Taroom High School students are the responsibility of the school. All communication between parents/carers and students, during school hours, must occur through the school office.
- Taroom High School has a duty of care for all students while they are at school. In emergencies, where students need to get in contact with parents/carers, students are to notify the appropriate school staff. If parents/carers need to contact their children, they are asked to contact the school office directly.
- Where a student has been granted an exemption, the mobile phone can be used by the student for the purposes of the exemption only. Phone use will be monitored by school staff. When not in use, for the purposes of the exemption, the phone must be switched off and stored, in accordance with this policy.

## 4 Non-compliance with this policy

- Non-compliance with this policy will be managed in accordance with the school's Student Behaviour Policy and Pathways.
- Students who do not comply with this policy may have their mobile phone confiscated and held at the school office. The parent/carer may be informed and requested to collect the mobile phone at their earliest convenience.
- In the case of repeated inappropriate mobile phone use by a student, the Principal or their delegate may request the student not bring the mobile phone to school.
- Further disciplinary action, in accordance with the Taroom High School Student Behaviour Policy and Pathways may be a result of repeated non-compliance and/or depending on the circumstances of the non-compliance.

## 5 Supporting information

- Frequently Asked Questions for Families

#### STORAGE OPTIONS

Taroom High School has determined that student mobile phones must be stored:

- Mobile phone is kept on person but switched off and unseen.
- In student bags and switched off.
- Kept in locker (with door locked) and switched off.
- Mobile phone is handed in to senior staff, labelled and secured in lockable cabinets.

## 6 Definitions

Mobile phone

Is a mobile device with access to a cellular (telecommunications) system, with or without a physical connection to a network. This includes smart watches, tablets, and associated listening accessories, such as, but not limited to, headphones and earbuds.

### **Taroona High School**

Where the wording states Taroona High – this includes the 7-10 campus in Meath Avenue and the THS@UTAS 11-12 campus in Sandy Bay, Tasmania.

Responsibilities: Must and May

- The word 'MUST' is to be interpreted as being mandatory.
- The words 'is to' and 'are to' are to be interpreted as directory (highly recommended).
- The word 'may' is to be interpreted as being discretionary or enabling as the context requires.

School hours

Is the official start time of the school day, to the official end time of the school day.

At Taroona High School, this is from 8.30am to 2.40pm and inclusive of recess, lunch and between timetabled

## **7 Legislation**

- Secretary's Instruction No 3 for Unacceptable Behaviour of Students and Volunteers at, and Visitors to, State Schools or School Activities
- Secretary's Instruction No 4 for Suspension, Exclusion, Expulsion or Prohibition of State School Students

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**Last significant review:** 1 September 2021

**Review due:** 30 September 2022

**This document replaces:** New policy

This policy was reviewed by the Taroona High School Association and ratified in 2023. It will be reviewed again in 2025 (or sooner if deemed appropriate and necessary)