

## Mobile phones - *Off and Away*

### FAQs for Parents

#### **What is the rule regarding phone use at school?**

All students must **power off** their phone before they enter the school gates and their phone must remain in their bag until the end of the school day, including recess and lunch.

#### **Can my child have their phone on during travel to and from school?**

Yes. All students are expected to use their phone responsibly while travelling to and from school. Any student who misuses their phone may be disciplined under the Department's Behaviour Policy and/or the School Discipline Policy.

#### **My child has a medical condition and requires access to a phone app. How will this work?**

Students with a medical plan that requires them to access mobile phone specific apps have been issued with orange cards. If your child doesn't have a card and needs one under their medical plan, please contact a Head Teacher Wellbeing to arrange this.

#### **I need to contact my child with a message. How can I do that?**

If it is urgent, please call the office 91441689 and the office staff can pass on the message to your child. If it is not urgent, you can send the message and your child can read it at the end of the school day when they turn their phone back on. You can also email your child at their *education.nsw.gov.au* email address.

#### **What if my child needs to urgently call me or message me?**

If a student feels that they need to urgently call or message their parent, they can go to the office or a Deputy Principal to request this. Students who are unwell should report to sick bay. From there, parents can be contacted.

#### **How can students pay for canteen items?**

Students will need to either order lunch via Flexischools or bring a card/cash.

**Can students use laptops, tablets, earbuds, headphones or other electronic devices in the playground?**

No. Our playground is tech-free.

**Will there ever be occasions when a phone is used for a learning purpose?**

In very limited circumstances, teachers will supervise students for an educational purpose. Eg. Filming a video in Drama. The teacher will supervise the students turning on and turning their phones back on for this purpose.

**What will happen if a student breaches the phone rules?**

Staff will confiscate the phone or send the student to the office to hand their phone in. Alternatively, staff will report the sighting on Sentral and a Deputy Principal will send for the student to hand their phone in. As with all school rules, student refusal or repeated breaches of school rules will result in appropriate action being taken, in accordance with the school's discipline policy. This may include but is not limited to Levels/detentions/Individual Behaviour Support Plans.

**When will the student receive a confiscated phone back?**

The student will receive their phone back at the end of the school day. Students must not ask their teacher if they can leave class early to collect their phone.

**My child in years 9, 10 or 11 has had their phone confiscated on a Thursday. Will they be able to take their phone with them to Sport?**

For students who need to catch a bus to Sport, they may request their phone back at the end of period 3. Students who participate in Sport on school grounds can request their phone back at 2.30pm.

**What happens with mobile phones during sport?**

Sporting activities are considered to be part of the normal school day. Mobile phones are not permitted to be used during sport or on the buses to Sport. Phones can be switched on at 2.30pm at the conclusion of Sport.

**My child does not have a laptop. Will they be permitted to use their phone as a substitute?**

All students at St Ives High School are required to bring a laptop to school. No student will be allowed to use their phone as a substitute for a laptop. If a student requires a loan device due to misadventure, they should seek support from their Deputy Principal. Students who consistently turn up to class unprepared, may receive Levels/detentions.

**My child has a time-out card and their psychologist has recommended the use of specific apps as a self-soothing tool. Will this be allowed?**

Students who have a time-out card are allowed to follow the rules of time-out which involves reporting to the wellbeing hub where they will be supervised to use strategies recommended by a psychologist, which may include using an app on their laptop or an ipad.

**Can students wear smart watches?**

Yes, smart watches are allowed, but will need to be designed or set up to operate independently of a phone. We request that parents implement 'class mode' on the watch so it is not a distraction during lessons. We also request that parents only send their child messages or call their children on their smart watch outside classtime.

**What if the school goes into lockdown or lockout?**

In the case of a lockout or lockdown, you will be notified via phone call or text message. You can also contact the school via the front office using the school's contact information available on the website.

**What happens with mobile phones on excursions?**

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used during school excursions taking place during school hours. If the excursion is overnight or over a number of days and nights, special information will be provided to you via the teacher organising the excursion about how you can contact your child in the case of an emergency.

**Can students access their phones during private study?**

Students will not be permitted to access their phones during these times. Students engaged in private study may connect headphones/earbuds to their laptop.

**What happens if my child is in sick bay and the school has arranged a parent to pick them up?**

Students in sick bay are closely monitored and communicated with. Please contact the front office if you would like an update on how your child is feeling.