



Willunga High School

Middle year's mobile phone policy (7-10)

Safe and responsible use of digital technologies, student safety and wellbeing, and the development of social skills and positive behaviour are taken very seriously at Willunga High School. From Term 1, 2020, students within the Middle Years (years 7-10 inclusive) will need to secure their device(s) within lockable storage provided by the school during class times.

Whilst we acknowledge that we live in a technology-rich world where mobile phones are an important communication tool, research has found that mobile phones can be disruptive in classrooms and open to misuse at school. Teachers and members of the Willunga High School community have raised concerns about the presence of mobile phones in classrooms undermining students' capacity to think, learn, concentrate and regulate emotion.

The only exceptions to this policy will be where students use phones to monitor health conditions, support individual learning plans or where teachers instruct students to bring their phone for a particular classroom activity. These exceptions can only be granted by the Principal or Year Level Leader and must be documented. At all other times phones must be secured in lockers (or an alternative if locker is unavailable) during lesson time.

This policy will remove a major distraction from classrooms, so that teachers can teach, and students can learn in a more focused, positive and supported environment.

During break times, we encourage students to communicate with each other face-to-face or be involved in physical activity rather than students being focused on a mobile phone, particularly when they are using it to engage with social media.

It is acknowledged that providing a student with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently outside of school hours. Caregivers are reminded that in cases of emergency during the school day, the school office remains the preferred point of contact and school staff will ensure students are contacted quickly and assisted accordingly. When emergencies occur, parents or guardians can reach their child by calling the school on 8557 0100.

Willunga High School will manage non-compliance with this mobile phone policy in accordance with the existing student engagement and behaviour management policy.

Students must take responsibility for the safe keeping of personal mobile phones, smart watches, laptop computers, portable music devices and ICT storage devices. The school cannot accept responsibility for any loss or theft of such items.

This policy has been developed in consultation with Willunga High School staff, Student Voice representatives and Governing Council.