



Pittwater House

Mobile Phone Policy

There is little doubt that there are many positives for using technology to support student learning in and out of the classroom. This includes the student's laptop and handheld mobile device. Increasingly, the students of today have been absorbed in technology their whole lives and have access to a multitude of devices and are truly 'digital natives'. The students at Pittwater House have significant access to technology to support their learning through their tablets (Years 5 and 6) and their laptops (Years 7 to 12). The School also utilises a significant range of e-learning initiatives to enrich the learning of our students in and out of the classroom. However, whilst technology is significantly enriching the learning options for the students, too much access to technology can cause distraction, expose the students to unsafe content, and impact on their health and wellbeing.

Pittwater House accepts that parents give their children mobile devices to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. Parents may also be concerned about children travelling alone on public transport or walking to and from school. We acknowledge that providing a child with a mobile device gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently outside of the school day. However, it is the School's responsibility to provide an environment where our students are safe and healthy. It is also our responsibility to provide an environment where students can learn with minimal distraction and have every opportunity to maximise their academic growth. Therefore, based on the mounting research and our own observations of the distraction and social impact that mobile phones can have we will be limiting their use at school.

We continue to encourage families to have open and honest conversations about phone and technology use at home, and consider together a family policy or guidelines that everyone will follow. For example, making bedrooms a screen-free zone - having a family charging station where devices are kept/charged each night. There are many useful resources available to help you do this. The School's subscription to Family Zone, which is available to all families is a highly recommended method of assisting in managing mobile phone and device usage outside of school hours <https://www.familyzone.com/pittwaterhouse>. Parents are reminded that they are only to contact students during the School day via reception.

During 2020, we will continue to consult, monitor, and evaluate our practices in light of government policy, new research, and the best interests of our students.

From Day 1 of 2020 the following rules regarding mobile phones will be in place:

1.1 ECC to Year 4 Students

Students are not to have mobile phones or Smart watches on the school grounds. Exemptions to this rule, for example the use of phones to support and monitor a medical condition, need to be discussed with and approved by the Head of the Junior School.

1.2 Year 5 to 6 Students

Students are encouraged not to bring mobile phones to school. However, requests for exceptions to this rule need to be submitted via Skoolbag to the Head of the Junior School. Students who have been approved to

bring their phones to school must keep them switched off while on school grounds and have them secured in their school bags throughout the day. Please see Fig. 1. for more details.

1.3 Year 7 to 10 Students

Students may bring their phone to school, however, there are limited times when they are allowed to access them. Students are to:

1. Turn phones off and lock them in their lockers between 8.30am and 3.25pm. Lockers must be locked with padlocks. Phones are not to be accessed during these times.
2. At times teachers may require students to bring their mobile devices to class for a specific learning activity. Students must then return their phones to their lockers at the next available break.
3. Please see Fig. 1. for more details.

1.4 Year 11 to 12 Students

Students may bring their phone to school, however, there are limited times when they are allowed to access them.

1. May carry phone with them.
2. They should not be used or seen in class without teacher approval.
3. Students can not walk around campus during breaks with headphones on.
4. See Fig. 1 for detail.

Mobile phones/devices are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.

	Year E-4	Year 5 and 6	Year 7-10	Year 11-12
Phone access	No phones or Smart watches.	With approval, must be switched off in bags.	Must be locked in locker and switched off.	May be carried on student, but not to be used in class.
Between class	No	No	No	No
Recess and lunch	No	No	No	Limited
Before and after school	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Co-curricular	No	No	No	Yes
Excursions	No	No	Under teacher direction	Under teacher direction
Camps	No	No	No	No

Fig. 1 Mobile phone policy details

At all times, students may go to reception or their Head of School to contact parents or receive a call. Parents may only contact students during the school day via School Reception.

Consequences for Not Following Policy

Junior School

First Breach of Policy

Mobile device removed and taken to the Head of the Junior School. Recorded in system. Device collected at the end of the day. Verbal Warning.

Second Breach of Policy

Mobile device removed and taken to Head of Junior School. Recorded in system. Device collected at end of day. Parents will be contacted.

Subsequent Breach of Policy

Mobile device removed and taken to the Head of the Junior School. Recorded in system. Parents will have to meet with the Head of the Junior School to collect device.

Senior School

First Breach of Policy

Phone to be confiscated and delivered to reception. Student may collect phone after 3.25pm from reception. Year Coordinator to be notified and record made.

Second Breach of Policy

Phone to be confiscated and delivered to reception. Student may collect phone after 3.25pm from reception. Year Coordinator to be notified and record made. Year Coordinator will meet with student.

Subsequent Breach of Policy

Phone to be confiscated and delivered to reception. Student may collect phone after 3.25pm from reception. Year Coordinator to be notified and record made. Year Coordinator will contact parents and suitable punishment to be implemented.