



## MOBILE PHONE POLICY

A new policy governing the student use of mobile phones will apply in all NSW public schools from Term 4 2023.

### 1. Policy statement

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.
- 1.3 Principals may allow students to use mobile phones in specific circumstances, such as for an educational purpose, to achieve student health and wellbeing outcomes, or as part of reasonable adjustment to enable students with specific needs to participate in education on the same basis as other students.

### 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.

### The Rock Central School's Mobile Phone Procedures

1. The Rock Central School accepts that parents and caregivers give their children mobile phones/devices to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. It is acknowledged that providing a student with a mobile phone/device gives parents/caregivers reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently outside of school hours.
2. Parents/Caregivers are reminded that in case of emergency during the school day, the school office staff remain the preferred point of contact and that they will ensure students are contacted quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.
3. At The Rock Central School, we understand that students have smartwatches (and other devices that connect to mobile phones). We ask that students turn their mobile phone off prior to placing it in the pouch. That will then disable the connectivity to their smart devices.
4. Students are issued a pouch with a number that is kept in the school office. When they walk into the school grounds they are to turn their phone off and place their phone in the pouch and collect it at the end of the school day.
5. It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile phones/devices to school to abide by the guidelines outlined in this policy.
6. Students who do not meet the expectations in this policy will be subject to consequences consistent with the school discipline policy and be reminded by the teacher to hand their phone to the office.
7. If the student refuses to hand the phone to the office or uses the phone during school time after the reminder, the student will be asked to go to the principal. The phone will be placed in the school safe, and a parent/caregiver will be asked to collect the phone. This will also result in a formal warning of suspension, for continued disobedience.