

Mobile Phone/ Portable Electronic Device Policy

Rationale

The Department of Education does not permit student use of mobile phones in public schools unless for medical or teacher directed educational purpose. It is important to note that it is not a requirement at Denmark Senior High School for students to have a mobile phone at school.

At Denmark Senior High School, we cater to the needs of our young adult learners so that they can take their next important steps in their life. Our primary goal is to move students to increasing independence where they understand, appreciate and accept responsibility for the choices they make and in doing so, make the most of their opportunities. As part of this workplace approach, we seek to teach our students to be responsible and accountable for their actions in all aspects of School life, including mobile phone and other device usage.

CONDITIONS OF USE AT DENMARK SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Department of Education policy states that students are permitted to be in possession of their mobile phone during the school day, but they should be turned off and put away all day (“**turned off and neither seen nor heard**”). This includes before school and at break times. All smart watches must also be “**off & away**” so phone calls and messages cannot be sent or received during the day. For the purpose of this policy, ‘mobile phones’ includes smart watches and other portable electronic devices, associated listening accessories, such as (but not limited to) headphones and ear pods.

EXEMPTIONS, PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMUNICATIONS & EXCURSIONS

Exemptions to this ban include where a student requires a mobile phone:

- to monitor a health condition as part of a school approved documented health care plan; or
- under the direct instruction of a teacher for educational purposes; or with permission of a teacher for a specified educational purpose.

Whilst at Denmark Senior High School, students are the responsibility of the School, all communication between parents/guardians and students during school hours, should occur via the School’s office staff. In emergencies, where students need to urgently make contact with parents/guardians/work, students are to notify the appropriate School staff.

Guidelines for the use of mobile phones as well as headphones/earphones whilst on excursions, will be outlined in the documentation of each excursion and remain at the discretion of the teacher in charge.

Policy

Students who bring mobile phones to school do so under the following conditions:

1. Denmark SHS accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage of a student’s mobile phone.
2. The school is not responsible for the content on a mobile phone, this is the responsibility of the parent/caregiver.

3. The decision on whether the mobile phone is allowed to be brought to school remains the decision of the parent/caregiver. The school will not request that the mobile phone is required to be brought to school unless requested by a teacher for specified educational purpose.
4. Mobile phones and earphones should be **Off and Away - All Day**. They are to be used in class only on the **explicit direction of a teacher** and only to support learning. (ie listing homework/electronic calendar, taking photographs of an experiment/model or whiteboard notes, playing music for dance or music classes etc.) There is no expectation that all students will be required to have a mobile phone and students without electronic devices will not be disadvantaged. "All day" means from the first bell at 8:55am until the last bell at 3:15pm.
5. If a mobile phone is seen by a teacher during school time they are to remind the student of the **"Off and away all day"** rule. If the teacher needs to speak to the student again, the teacher will direct the student to the front office and the student will surrender their mobile phone for the duration of the school day. Mobile phones will be placed in a locked cabinet. A pass will be issued to the student at this time. The pass is to be shown to the staff member to prove the mobile phone has been surrendered and is used to pick up the mobile phone after 3.15pm.
6. Parents will be advised by SMS should a child's mobile phone be confiscated, to alert them they are to call the front office anyway. Should parents wish to contact a staff member to discuss, they will be directed to the Deputy Principal.

BREACHES OF THIS POLICY

Breaches of this policy will be managed in accordance with the School's *Mobile Phone Policy Flowchart* and associated *Behaviour Management Policy and Procedures*.

1. In the first instance students are to be reminded to put the mobile phone away – not seen or heard.
2. For further breaches students may have their mobile phone confiscated, they will be asked to take their mobile phone to the front office to be stored for the remainder of the day.
3. Ongoing breaches may result in the student losing their Good Standing and a parent meeting being convened.
4. In the event that a student becomes defiant when asked to hand over the device, the School will deal with the incident under the Behaviour Management Policy and may result in a suspension and subsequent Loss of Good Standing.
5. At the end of each term, all student's mobile phone breaches will be re-set.
6. Students who use a mobile phone (still and video) on school grounds to film people and their activities without their knowledge and/or permission and any student found to be involved in recording, distributing or uploading inappropriate images, videos of students, parents or staff on School grounds will be suspended immediately.