

Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices Guidelines

NSW School of Languages

Mobile phone use in schools can impact student learning and wellbeing. Restricting mobile phone use at school aims to increase focus in classrooms, remove distractions and promote positive social interaction, while reducing the potential for online bullying.

NSW School of Languages follows the “Off and Away” management option for mobile phones.

- Students are not allowed to use mobile phones at school, including during recess and lunch.
- Principal (or delegates) will manage individual requests from parents and/or carers, and students, for any exemptions to the policy.
- Principal (or delegates) 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.

Procedures:

- All phones must be “off and away”. This means phones should be off (not on silent) and not visible, ideally in the student’s bag. However, if the student’s bag needs to be unattended, students should put the phone in their pocket.
- Phones and earbuds must be off and away from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm **including Recess and Lunch**.
- At times, teachers may instruct, or allow students to use mobile phones for specific educational purposes, such as:
 - taking a photograph of work displayed on a board
 - completing an evaluation for a lesson day
 - or using an app specific to a subject.

At these times students may use their phones but only when explicitly instructed to by their teacher.