Pacific Pines State High School

Mobile Phone Policy



Pacific Pines State High

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Digital Literacy

At Pacific Pines State High School, we understand the importance of explicitly teaching and developing our student's digital literacy. Digital literacy refers to the skills needed to live, learn and work in a society where communication and access to information is dominated by digital technologies like mobile phones. However, the benefits brought about through these diverse technologies can be easily overshadowed by deliberate misuse which harms others or disrupts learning.

School Liability

Pacific Pines State High School recommends that students do not bring high value personal devices to school such as, but not limited to, mobile phones, smart watches, iPods, air pods, earphones, DS players, PSPs etc. No liability will be accepted by Pacific Pines State High School in the event of loss, theft or damage to any device unless it can be proven that the loss, theft or damage resulted from the school negligence.

Mobile Phones Whilst at School

While we understand that mobile phones are commonplace in the 21st century world in which we live, Pacific Pines State High School believes in maintaining a safe, effective and enjoyable educational environment for all of its students. Research shows that the mere presence of mobiles in the classroom can be detrimental to student performance. According to a survey and report from Common Sense Media that involved 1,240 interviews with parents and their 12 to 18year-old children, 50% of teens feel attached to their mobile devices, and 59% of their parents agree that their kids have a problem putting their devices down (U.S. News & World Report). We also know that mobile phones are often used inappropriately in response to social media trends, particularly in schools.

To support a culture of students disconnecting to reconnect, so our students can focus on their learning, Pacific Pines State High School has a **non-visible mobile phone and earphones policy**, during class time, transitions between classes, and at break times unless in a designated technology zone. Smartwatches or other devices that can be used to receive or send calls or text messages are not permitted. Transitions between classes refers to the transitions between:

- Homebased to Period 1
- Period 1 to Period 2
- Period 3 to Period 4

We understand that there will be times where students may need to contact parents, carers, work supervisors etc. There will be designated technology zones within the school where students are able to use their phones during break times. Designated Technology Zones:

- Years 7-10: Learning Hub
- Year 11-12: VL Block

While there are no time limits on how long a student can be in these zones, as the underpinning purpose of this policy is to encourage **students to disconnect to reconnect**, students will only use these zones for essential communication, and not for the purpose of accessing social media.

The use of mobile phones outside of these designated technology zones is not permitted during break times, as these areas outside of the technology zones will be a space for students to disconnect from technology and connect with their peers through conversation and play.

The use of a mobile phone's camera function is not permitted at any time including outside of school grounds where the students' actions would bring the name of the school into disrepute. The only exception to this is when students are using the camera for curriculum activities approved by the Head of Department and Deputy Principal.

Students found to be using the camera function on their mobile phone to film or photograph on school grounds, outside of an approved curriculum activity, or outside of school where their actions bring the name of the school into disrepute, will face disciplinary action in line with the Student Code of Conduct. This includes the filming of TikTok's etc. Further to the use of mobile phones in the designated technology zones, there will be other approved exceptions for mobile phones use.

These approved exceptions include, but are not limited to:

- Using a mobile phone to make purchase at the canteen, finance window or uniform shop.
- Medical reasons supported by relevant documentation.
- Approved curriculum reasons, where the teacher has sought permission from the Head of Department and Deputy Principal.

For parents and carers, the options for contacting your student/s are as follows:

- Contact can be made with the office, and a message can be sent to the student via Daymap, which they can check on their laptop. If urgent, the student will be given the message directly.
- An email can be sent to the students Education Queensland email account. Students use their laptops most lessons, so are able to view their emails regularly.

For students, the alternative to using their mobile phones to contact parents and carers is to go to the main administration building and request to make a phone call.

Where a student's phone is visible during class time or during breaktimes outside of the designated technology zones, without explicit permission, the student's phone will be confiscated for the remainder of the school day, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct 'temporary removal of students property'.

On the 3rd confiscation, a parent or carer will be required to collect the phone. If the phone cannot be collected that same day by a parent or carer, it will be kept on site in the school safe. Repeated misuse of mobile phones outside of the school's policy or a student's refusal to hand in their phone when directed by a member of staff, will be considered non-compliance and disobedience and will be followed up in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, which may result in disciplinary action.

Responsibilities

The responsibilities for students using mobile phones and other devices at school or during school activities, are outlined below:

It is **acceptable** for students at Pacific Pines State High School to:

- Bring a mobile phone to school, ensuring it remains non-visible for the duration of the school day either in the student's bag or on their person, unless it's being used for one of the approved reasons above
- Bring earphones to school, ensure they remain non-visible for the duration of the school day either in the student's bag or on their person, unless it's being used for one of the approved reasons above
- Use their mobile phone for curriculum purposes that have been approved by the Head of Department and Deputy Principal
- Be courteous, considerate and respectful of others when using a mobile device at all times.
- Use a mobile phone to make purchases at school canteen, finance window, uniform shop
- Use a mobile phone for approved medical reasons
- Seek teacher's/staff approval where they wish to use a mobile device under special circumstances

It is **unacceptable** for students at Pacific Pines State High School to:

- Use their mobile phone or headphones during the school day, unless in a designated technology zone or for another approved reason outlined above
- Use a mobile phone or other devices in an unlawful manner
- Use a mobile phone outside of school hours where the student's actions would bring the name of the school into disrepute.
- Download, distribute or publish offensive messages or pictures
- Use obscene, inflammatory, racist, discriminatory or derogatory language
- Use language and/or threats of violence that may amount to bullying and/or harassment, or stalking
- Insult, harass or attack others or use obscene or abusive language
- Ignore teacher directions for the use of social media, email and internet chat
- Use in-phone cameras anywhere on school grounds or outside of school where the name of the school would be brought into disrepute
- Record, photograph and/or distribute images and recordings of fights involving students.
- Invade someone's privacy by recording personal conversations or daily activities and/or the further distribution (e.g. forwarding, texting, uploading, Bluetooth use etc.) of such material
- Use a mobile phone (including those with Bluetooth functionality) to cheat during exams or assessments
- Take into or use mobile devices at exams or during class assessment unless expressly permitted by school staff

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