

2024 MOBILE PHONE / SMART DEVICE STRATEGY

In 2024, Fern Bay Public School's implementation of the NSW Department of Education's 'Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools Policy' and related policies and procedures, will involve using the '*Phones Stored in the Office Strategy*'.

This departmental policy is being implemented to increase focus and learning in classrooms, remove distractions and promote positive social interactions.

Please note a smart device as defined in the Department's 'Digital Devices and Online Services for Students policy' includes "wearable technology (such as smartwatches and headphones) and other devices that can receive, store, process and share digital information and connect to applications (apps), websites and other online services." This includes any watch-like device that has one or more of the following capabilities: sending and receiving text messages, calling and receiving phone calls, taking and receiving images, games, internet / Wi-Fi.



To ensure our school is a safe and happy space for learning,

- **All students are expected to hand their phone/ smart device into the school office each day for safe keeping. Students can collect these at the end of each day.**
- The care and responsibility of these mobile phones or smart devices will be the responsibility of the school only whilst they are held securely in the office.
- **Parents or carers will continue to be able to contact our office staff on 49 281668 to communicate messages to their children** e.g. changes to their afternoon routine.
- Students will still be able to carry their phones while travelling to and from school, during which times, the care and responsibility of these devices resides with the parents or carers.

To promote the wellbeing of all students and staff, smart devices must be turned off and stored in the office during the school day (**between 8:30am and 3:00pm**). If smart devices are misused by students, they can be disruptive to teaching and learning and, in some cases, cause harm.

For a student to bring a mobile phone or smart device to school, the Department requires parents or carers to complete a form requesting that their child have a device at school.

At Fern Bay Public School, this form is available to complete through School Bytes. Principals will manage individual requests from parents or carers for any exemptions to the policy e.g. a student with diabetes using a phone to manage their blood glucose readings.



FERN BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL MOBILE PHONE / SMART DEVICE POLICY and EXPECTATIONS OF USE

'Phones Stored in the Office Strategy'

Rationale

This document outlines the strategy, expectations of use and conditions under which mobile phones and smart devices are managed at Fern Bay Public School in line with the NSW Department of Education's 'Student's Use of Mobile Phones in Schools Policy' and related policies and procedures.

Expectations of Use

- Students will only be permitted to bring a mobile phone or smart device onto school premises for safety, security, or emergency purposes e.g. to contact parents after school to arrange pick-up times.
- For a student to bring a mobile phone or smart device to school, the Department requires parents/carers to complete a form requesting that their child have a device at school. At Fern Bay Public School, this form is available to complete through School Bytes.
- Principals will manage individual requests from parents and/or carers for any exemptions to the policy e.g. a student with diabetes using a mobile phone or smart device to manage their blood glucose readings.
- Mobile phones or smart devices must be turned off during school hours (8:30am – 3:00pm). They are to be handed to the office before school begins and students will collect them at the end of each day. Each phone or smart device will be placed in individual storage compartments labelled with the student's name.
- Students will still be able to carry their mobile phones or smart devices while travelling to and from school.
- If a mobile phone or smart device is out at school, (between 8:30am and 3:00pm) the device will be taken to the office by the teacher and can be collected by the student at the end of the day.
- Continued misuse of a smart device may result in parents/carers being contacted to collect the device from the office.

Inappropriate Conduct

- Students using mobile devices inappropriately may face disciplinary action in line with the Department's Behaviour Code for Students.

