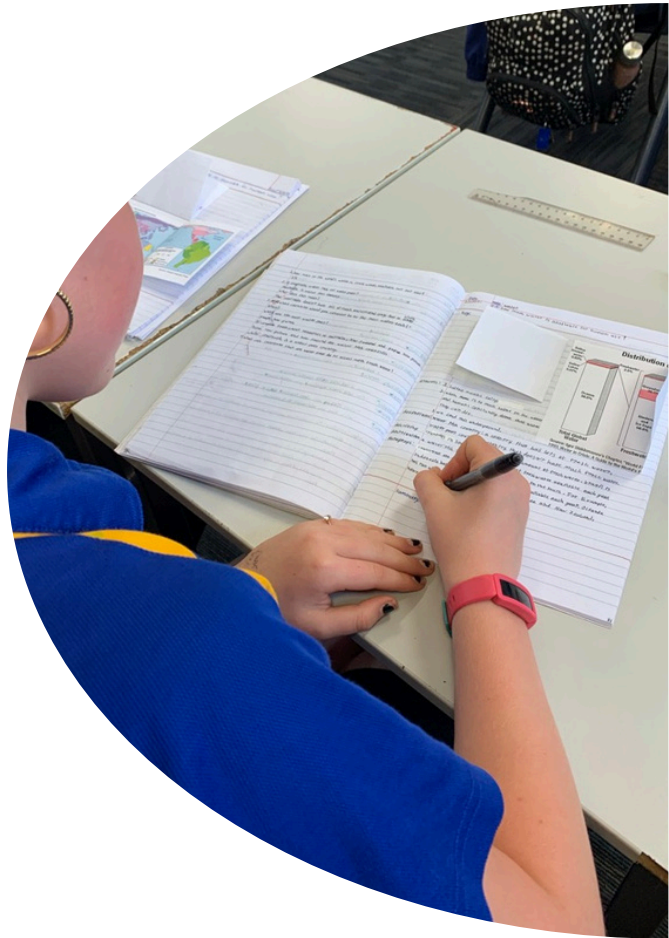




STUDENT MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOLS POLICY

LAST REVIEWED:
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Policy

The Department of Education does not permit student use of mobile phones in public schools unless for medical or teacher directed educational purpose.

Newman Senior High School recognises that an increasing number of parents/carers who for safety, security and/or emergency purposes wish to provide their children with mobile phones. This policy details the conditions under which mobile phones are permitted at Newman Senior High School.

It is important to note that it is not a requirement at Newman Senior High School for students to have a mobile phone at school.

For the purposes of this policy, 'mobile phones' includes smart watches and associated listening accessories, such as, but not limited to, headphones and ear buds. 'School grounds' includes on school site, excursions, camps, and/or any location where students are under the supervision of staff.

Conditions of Use

Students are permitted to bring a mobile phone to school for use when in transit to and from school.

The use of mobile phones for all students is not permitted from the time they enter the school grounds until they are dismissed and leave the school grounds at the conclusion of the school day. This includes before school and at break times (off and away all day).

Students are permitted to have mobile phones in their possession during the school day, however they must be turned off and neither seen nor heard.

The device is the responsibility of the student. The school takes no responsibility for loss, theft, or damage to any device in any circumstance.

Exemptions and Communication

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 (students who are exempt will carry a card and staff will be informed);
- to use as a payment method at the school canteen (under duty teacher supervision); or
- under the direct instruction of a teacher for educational purposes or with permission of a teacher for a specified purpose.

Newman Senior High School has duty of care for all students when they are attending the school. All communication between parents and students, during school hours, should occur via the school directly. If a parent/caregiver needs to contact their children during school hours, they are asked to phone the school administration. Where a student needs to get in contact with parents/carers, students are to notify the appropriate school staff.

Smart watches must be in 'aeroplane mode' so phone calls and messages cannot be sent or received during the school day.

Students must ensure their phone or smart watch is not on their person during test / assessment / exam conditions.

Breaches of this Policy

Breaches of this policy will be managed in accordance with the *School Behaviour Management Policy and Procedures*.

If a student is seen with a mobile phone and they are not using it under the direction of a staff member, they will be reminded of the policy in the first instance ("off and away all day") and asked to put the phone away.

Failure to comply with this request may result in the student being asked to hand their phone over to the staff member for a period of time (e.g. the remainder of the lesson), an ebreach being logged, and parents/carers being informed.

In the case of repeated inappropriate mobile phone use by a student, their mobile phone may be confiscated and held at the front office. If the number of offences is less than three, the student may collect the mobile phone at the end of the school day. If they have three or more offences, the parent/carer will be informed and requested to collect the mobile phone from the school at their earliest convenience.

For repeated breaches, and for refusal to follow the instructions of a staff member, students will be dealt with in accordance with the school's behaviour management policy and may lose their Good Standing.

Further disciplinary action, in accordance with Newman Senior High School student behaviour policy and procedures may be a result of repeated breaches and or depending on the circumstances of the breach.

Students who use a mobile phone (still and video) 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 premises will be considered for suspension.