

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Purpose: | <p>The purpose of this Policy is to provide the students of Cairns Hinterland Steiner School (CHSS) with guidelines regarding the appropriate use of personal mobile devices whilst in the school's care.</p> <p>A 'no phones' stance has been adopted as mobile devices are not part of teaching and learning at CHSS and because ongoing contemporary research has established electronic devices are a distraction, may hinder personal development by restricting social interaction, and in some cases be the vehicle for anti-social interactions between students.</p> |
| Scope: | Student use of all personal mobile devices whilst in the school's care. |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Document No. | 1.80.2 | | |
| Status: | CURRENT | Date Ratified: | 10.03.25 |
| Review Date: | Biannually | Supersedes: | 2023 Student Mobile Device Policy |
| Authorised by: | Head of School | Next Review Date: | 31.01.27 |
| Policy Owner: | Cairns Hinterland Steiner School Leadership | | |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| References: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHSS Disability Discrimination Policy • CHSS Child Protection Policy • CHSS Student Bullying Policy • CHSS Student Behaviour Support Procedure • CHSS Privacy Policy • CHSS Duty of Care Policy • CHSS Family Law Policy • CHSS Work Health and Safety Policy |
|--------------------|--|

Definitions:

Mobile Devices: for the purpose of this Policy are handheld electronic equipment used for communication or entertainment, for example a mobile phone, smartphone, tablet computer or SIM enabled smart watches.

Background

Parents/carers and students are both responsible for the correct use of a student's electronic devices. Parents or carers are primarily responsible for educating their child about their digital footprint and the possible legal/social consequences of inappropriate use. CHSS will provide parents and carers with useful information and up to date literature that supports an age-appropriate approach to phones and technology from an anthroposophical perspective.

CHSS Expectations:

1. Any student in primary school that brings a mobile device to school must hand this into the school office on arrival and may pick up at the office at the end of the day, at the responsibility of the student.
2. High School Students' personal mobile devices are not to be used, seen, or heard whilst on School grounds. This includes during School activities such as sporting events, camps, or excursions.
3. Personal mobile devices are to remain in a student's schoolbag and should be switched off or on silent.
4. When travelling on the school's bus service, to and from School, all personal mobile devices must also remain in a student's schoolbag.
5. If a student needs to contact their parents or carers during the school day, this must be done through the school office.
6. In case of an emergency during the school day, parents can contact their children by calling the CHSS Office and a message will be passed on. Mobile devices must not be used to bypass school procedures in relation to student/parent/teacher communication.
7. During camps, contact number/s will be provided to parents so that families can contact their child in case of emergencies or if a student needs to contact their family.
8. Students who choose to bring mobile devices to School do so at their own risk and are solely responsible for that device. CHSS accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen, or damaged mobile devices, this includes while travelling on the school bus.

Students may not engage in personal attacks, harass another person or post private information about another person using SMS messages, talking, messaging, sending photos or images through social media channels. Students using mobile devices to harass or bully other students will face disciplinary actions as outlined in Category 3 of the school wide behaviour support procedures. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use mobile devices (or any technology) to threaten, harass or offend another person.

Non-Compliance:

A student who is found using a mobile device while on campus will be reminded of this Policy and asked to turn off their phone/device and hand it into reception at the CHSS office immediately. If students do not comply parents will be called to attend the school and discuss with the Head of School.

Phase 1

For the first occurrence, the student will be asked to hand their mobile device into reception at the CHSS office or the High School office. The student will be required to collect the device after school.

Phase 2

In the case of a second occurrence, the student will be asked to hand their mobile device into reception at the CHSS office or High School office for collection by a parent the following day.

Phase 3

In the event of a third non-compliance the mobile device will be stored in the school office for a period of two days. The mobile device is to be collected by a parent/carer and they are to meet with the student with the Head of School to discuss.

Exemption to this policy - on the School bus:

Any families with children with a disability (including social or emotional) that require a device to travel on the School bus, on their person rather than in their bag, must apply in writing to the School.

Staff, Parents, Carers and Visitors to the School

Staff, parents, carers and visitors to the school will endeavour to keep their personal mobile phone away from the public spaces and will endeavour to keep the devices on silent. E.g. library, classrooms, school yard, playgrounds and hall.