

# Dripstone Middle School

## Student Mobile Phones in Government Schools' Policy

### Policy

Student mobile phones are not permitted to be used in Northern Territory Government schools and are to be off and away all day. Exemptions apply for medical reasons.

Dripstone Middle School respects the right of parents who wish to provide their child with a mobile phone. This policy details the conditions under which mobile phones are permitted at Dripstone Middle School.

This policy applies to mobile phones, smart watches and all other devices that allow electronically based distractions. Smart watches will need to be switched to flight mode while students are in school.

### Conditions of Use

Students are not permitted to have mobile phones in their possession during the school day. Smart watches must be placed on flight mode so phone calls and messages cannot be sent or received during the school day.

Mobile phones owned by students at Dripstone Middle School are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the student's or parent's risk.

Please note that Dripstone Middle School does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft of personal items. Students and their parents are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for their personal items.

The use of mobile phones for all secondary students is not permitted from the time students enter the school grounds to the conclusion of the school day. Student mobile phones must be off and away all day and stored securely.

### Exemptions

Students may be granted an exemption to use their mobile phone and smart watch during the school day:

- to monitor a health condition as part of a school approved documented **Health Care Plan**.
- in the event of an emergency to contact **Emergency Services**.

Where a student has been granted an exemption, the mobile phone can be used by the student; however, its use will be monitored by school staff.

### Communication

All communication between parents and students, during school hours, is to occur via the school office.

Dripstone Middle School has duty of care for all students when they are attending the school. In emergencies, where students need to get in contact with parents, students are to notify the Front Office. If parents need to contact their children, they are asked to contact the school office directly.

## Non-Compliance of this Policy

Students who use their mobile phones inappropriately at Dripstone Middle School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's Student Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy and Code of Conduct.

At Dripstone Middle School inappropriate use of mobile phones is any use during school hours unless an exception has been granted.

Breaches of this policy will be managed in accordance with the school's Student Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy.

In the first instance where a student breaches The Mobile Phone Policy - Students who do not comply with this policy will have their mobile phone confiscated and held at the office. The student will need to collect their mobile phone at the end of the school day.

In the second instance where a student breaches The Mobile Phone Policy - In the case of repeated inappropriate mobile phone usage by a student, the mobile phone will be confiscated and held at the office. The parent will be informed and requested to collect the mobile phone.

In the instance when a student is continually breaching The Mobile Phone Policy further action, in accordance with Dripstone Middle School Student Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy will result in further consequences including withdrawal.