



Students' use of Mobile Phones and Digital Devices in Schools

Rationale and Objectives

Camden High School supports the restrictions of mobile phones in accordance with the NSW Department of Education: Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools policy. Mobile phones and other non-educational digital devices, such as air Pods, can impact student learning and wellbeing. Restricting mobile phone and other non-educational digital devices aims to increase focus in classrooms, remove distractions and promote positive social interaction, while reducing the potential for online bullying.

Camden High School has elected to use a locked device pouch approach. Students will have a responsibility to turn off their phone, place it in a locked pouch and store it safely in their school bag for the course of the school day, inclusive of break times. Any non-educational digital devices such as air Pods, should be kept at home or stored away. This is an approved NSW Department of Education option and will limit unnecessary distractions and complement our ongoing approach to ensure every student maximises their learning and social growth in a safe and supportive environment.

Exemptions

Camden High School understands there may be students who have a medical need which will require them to access a mobile phone as defined in this plan. Requests for exemption based on medical needs will be considered on an individual basis and require the submission of a Mobile Phone Exemption Request with appropriate medical documentation supplied. Please contact the Front Office if you require an Exemption Request.

Contacting students

Camden High School understands there will always be emergencies when parents need to contact their child during the school day. We try to keep this to a minimum, except for emergencies, to avoid disturbing the students' learning. Parents and carers can contact their child through the school office if urgent (phone: 4655 9191 / email: camden-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au).

Canteen Purchases

Students are encouraged to use cash or organise a debit card for purchases at the canteen. Mobile devices will not be allowed to be used.

Pouch Distribution and Maintenance

Students have had a presentation delivered and will be shown how to use the pouch appropriately. Phone pouches will be distributed at the beginning of term 4. Each student will sign for receipt of the phone pouch and will be responsible for its appropriate use and maintenance. If a pouch is lost or damaged, a replacement can be purchased via the front office. Intentional damage will be investigated, and consequences will result, as per the Camden High School Student Behaviour Management Procedures for Mobile and Digital Devices.

Support for Students

Camden High School has recognised the impact this may have on students and are mapping support options including additional extra-curricular activities during break times.

Failure to Comply

Failure to comply with the Camden High School approach of using the mobile phone pouch appropriately will result in consequences as per the Camden High School Student Behaviour Management Procedures for Mobile and Digital Devices. This resource is attached to the email.

For further Information

Please view the Community presentation attached to the email.