

Different ways that schools manage devices



Off and away

Phones are 'Off and away' in classrooms. This message is reinforced by posters in each classroom. Phones are confiscated by a deputy principal if they are used during class. The school accepts responsibility and liability for confiscated devices. Students can collect them at the end of the day. Teachers joke with students about their running tally of phones confiscated. This light-hearted approach reinforces the 'Off and away' message without feeling overly punitive. Students are free to use devices at recess and lunch so long as they are used appropriately.



Technology-free Tuesdays

Once a week, the school goes technology-free for the whole day. Students aren't to use technology during class or at recess or lunch. Students take a break from their devices to raise awareness of device dependency and promote exercise and face-to-face socialising. Some schools also offer school-organised sports, live music and other events to support students during the technology-free day.



Phones stored in school office

Each day, students hand in their phones into the office. The school takes responsibility and liability for these devices. Students can collect their devices, from the office, at the end of each day.



Phones kept in lockers

Students do not carry phones with them and must keep them in their lockers. Students are permitted to use their phones during recess and lunch, but must only do so at their locker. Phones are not to be taken out of the students' lockers until the end of the school day.



Phones in a box

Some teachers ask students to hand their phones in at the start of class. Students demonstrate responsibility by electing to place their phones in a box, or on the teacher's desk or other location until the end of class. The school takes responsibility and liability for any phones collected in this way. The box is promoted as something to help students ensure they do the right thing during class time, not as a punishment during class time. If a student chooses not to put the phone in the box, then the student accepts any consequences for any inappropriate or non-educational use of their device.



Device free breaks

Recess and lunch breaks are dedicated device free time and devices are to be kept in bags during these times. Posters around the school remind students of this expectation.

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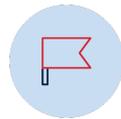
Phones for learning

Teachers can decide that phones, like any other device, have a legitimate role for learning in the classroom. Whether it is using the phone to capture photo evidence of work samples for a design course, for quick access to research, for collaborating with peers, or for any other educational purpose, the teacher determines when the phone is the most appropriate learning device for the activity. This approach is supported by clear classroom expectations based on behaviours rather than devices. These behaviours may be linked to existing school values or 'Positive Behaviour for Learning' (pbl.schools.nsw.gov.au/), and may even have been co-created by the teacher and students.



Locked phone pouch

Some schools have elected to provide students with a phone pouch. Each morning, students electronically lock their phones in the pouch using a kiosk in the school's office. When inside the pouch, the phone cannot receive any calls or messages. Phones stay with the students and thus students have responsibility and liability for their phone. At the end of the day, students return to the kiosk to have the pouch unlocked again.



Right time and place

Some schools have identified a particular location where students may use technology at recess, at lunch and during study breaks. Students must continue to follow all school expectations, including those specific to the location. Students are not permitted to use devices outside of the specified location unless a teacher has given them permission to do so.



Signed student agreement

To help students demonstrate their responsible use of technology, schools may require students to read and sign a student agreement that outlines the school expectations around appropriate, and inappropriate, use of technology. In signing, students acknowledge the school's expectations and accept the identified consequences for any breaches of the student agreement.



No phones

Students are asked not to bring phones to school. This is a decision made in consultation with the school community. Phones brought to school are confiscated until the student's parents/carers can attend a meeting to discuss the breach of school procedure. The school is responsible and liable for the confiscated devices. Some exemptions to this rule apply.