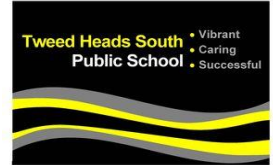


# Students use of Mobile Phones in Schools Management Plan 2024



## Rationale and Objectives

Tweed Heads South Public School supports the restrictions of mobile phones in accordance with the NSW Department of Education: Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools policy <https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2023-0480> Mobile phone use in schools can impact student learning and wellbeing. Restricting mobile phone use at school aims to increase focus in classrooms, remove distractions and promote positive social interaction, while reducing the potential for online bullying. Tweed Heads South Public School has strong teaching and learning practices to support students in the classroom using various forms of appropriate technology, which maximises the benefits and minimises the risks of digital environments and prepare students for life beyond school. We foster a safe learning environment which supports and enhances each child's social and emotional health through our wellbeing and learning support teams.

Tweed Heads South Public School has elected to use the following approach. All mobile phones will be handed in and stored in the School Office for the full school day, including recess and lunch. 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

Tweed Heads South Public School understands there may be students who have a medical, wellbeing or learning need which will require them to access a mobile phone as defined in this plan. An exemption from parts of the school procedure can be requested from the principal by parents, carers, school counsellors, school psychologists and student support officers, and, if required, students themselves. This may cover times when or places where use would otherwise be restricted.

Except where required by law, the school principal has discretion to consider and approve exemptions and to choose which parts of the school procedure the exemptions applies. The exemption may be ongoing or for a certain time period.

Exemptions to this plan may apply to some students, and will be considered on a case-by-case basis and granted when required by law or at the principal's discretion.

## Contacting students

Tweed Heads South Public School understands there will always be emergencies when parents need to get in contact with students or vice versa during the school day. We try to keep this to a minimum, with the exception of emergencies, to avoid disturbing the students' learning. Parents and carers can make contact with the school through the school office on 07 5524 3408 and students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office if urgent.