

Student use of Mobile Phones

Dear parent/carer/supervisors and students,

You may have heard recently about the changes to the use of mobile phones in NSW high schools beginning in Term 4, 2023.

Southern Cross School of Distance Education acknowledges the benefits of using various forms of appropriate technology to support teaching and learning. Whilst this may minimise the risks of digital environments and prepare students for life beyond school, we also recognise that incorrect use may cause harm. We are committed to supporting our students to use technology in a safe, responsible, and respectful way, to enhance student learning and engagement.

There are important changes coming in Term 4, which will impact all students.

Important changes coming in Term 4

- Mobile phones **are not** to be used during school hours, at hubs or outreach, as well as during school excursions. However, you will always be able to contact your child in an emergency.
- Students will still be able to carry their phones while travelling to and from hubs, outreach, and projects.
- Students will be asked to have their mobile phones off and away during school hours when at hubs or outreach.
- Students attending a DE project on their home school site must follow the mobile phone plan outlined by that school.
- School staff can allow students to use their mobile phones in specific circumstances, such as for an educational purpose, for their wellbeing or to support students with specific needs.
- Individual student requests for exemption will be assessed and considered by the school for medical and learning needs.

Considerations for exemption

If you have concerns about your child not having access to a mobile phone, we would be happy to discuss this further with you. Students with special needs, including medical and/or learning needs, may apply for an exemption. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Please use the form attached if you wish to apply for an exemption.

As Principal I will make the final decision for exemption applications. Prior to the decision being made consultation with teachers, students and families will occur. The application for the exemption will be reviewed and an agreed implementation plan will be completed during this consultation process.

We look forward to working with you to implement these changes in our school.

Sincerely,

Danny Henman

Principal

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Application for Mobile Phone Exemption

Parents/Carers and students wishing to apply for an exemption, will need to provide details of the special needs e.g. medical, learning difficulties etc.; that requires use of and access to their mobile phone while engaging in learning.

Submit this application form to your hub, outreach or project teacher and organise a time to discuss the application.

Student Name: _____

Year level: _____ Hub/Outreach/project: _____

Parent/Carer Name: _____

Outline the health or wellbeing reason requiring this exemption

Signed: _____ Date: _____

(parent/carer/supervisor)

Hub, outreach or project teacher notes re: discussions

Signed: _____ Date: _____

(hub/outreach/project teacher)