

Mobile phone and headphone/ear pod use in the school

BACKGROUND AND INSTRUCTIONS TO STAFF:

Intention: Australind SHS is preparing students for work place environments where they will need to demonstrate an ability to code switch within established business and community expectations and boundaries. Building independence and resilience in our students is supported through an expectation of self-management.

The policy related to phone use will be explicitly reinforced with parents/caregivers and students so that this policy can be applied consistently.

Background:

One of the biggest changes to school culture in 2020 was implemented by the Minister for Education. At the end of 2019 the Government instigated a mandatory policy position commencing in 2020 that mobile phones will not be used during the school day by students while on the school site. We have had significant support from parents on this new state government position. We have attempted to take a moderate approach to this policy but this has not been successful. This policy will be implemented with an increase in expectation.

We will use this first week of school as an opportunity to explicitly remind students that their mobile phones must be "OFF AND AWAY ALL DAY". Phones must be away immediately once students enter onto the school site regardless of the time and must remain away while they are on the school site.

If parents wish to contact their child during the school day, we would ask that they call the school and we will get a message to the student. We ask that parents reinforce with students that their mobile phone needs to be off and away all day while on site or else the phone will be confiscated. A confiscated phone will be returned to the student at the end of the day for an initial breach. Repeat instances will escalate our response to the phone confiscation. We would need to discuss this repeated breach with parents and parents will be the only person authorized to collect the phone.

This device restriction does not apply to a student iPad or a laptop that should be used responsibly for learning purposes utilising the school Wi-Fi.

This text in blue is the script that we will share with all students every day this first week of school from Monday 8th February 2021:

At the start of 2020 the Minister for Education changed the mobile phone policy in schools.

At all times everywhere in the school:

- Mobile phones are **turned off** (not just on silent) and **out of sight and away all day** from the time that students walk onto the school site regardless of the time; this includes before and after school bell times.
- Listening devices that fit into the ear (ear pods and earphones) cannot be used or be visible while students are on the school site.
- These items need to be put away and out of sight all day.

From the first day in this first week of our school year commencing Monday 8th February:

- We expect that phones will be off and away all day and earpieces out of sight.
- For this week only staff will remind students and expect that devices will be put away.
- Students must do as they are instructed or the device will be confiscated.
- If students do not put it away or hand over the phone when requested, the matter will escalate and become much more serious.

From the second week that we are on the school site, from Monday 15th February and for the remainder of the school year;

- We expect that phones will be off and away all day and earpieces out of sight. Students will no longer be reminded about their phone or earphones.
- If the phone is seen out or in use, staff will be required to ask for and to collect the phone from the student without any further reminder.

Advice to students:

- Keeping phones in your bags or lockers will remove the temptation to use the phone.
- Headphones, ear pods, wireless ear pods and any form of listening device that fits into the ear that can link to a device, **must** be put away and out of sight all day and cannot be around the neck, sticking up through a school jumper/shirt or in ears.
- Signage exists around the school reminding students that devices are off and away all day.

Confiscated phones:

- Teachers have the right to confiscate a mobile phone that is used on the school site as required by the policy and guidelines.
- Teachers will collect the phone and record the name of the owner of the phone
- All confiscated phones will be stored in a secure environment with the Attendance Officers (next to the canteen) for collection at the end of the school day for initial confiscation.
- **First Confiscation:** Students can pick up their phones at the end of the day. Parents will be notified via a school text.
- **Second Confiscation:** Students can pick up their phones at the end of the day. Parents will be notified by the school.
- **Repeat offenders beyond two confiscations:** Students will not be able to pick up their phone and a parent will be required to come to the school to pick up the phone.
- Staff will not confiscate headphones, ear pods or other similar devices but will direct student to put these away. Students are expected to comply.

Parents contacting students during the school day: Parents/caregivers are requested to contact the school directly if they need to get a message to their child and should not rely on students having access to their phone while on school site.

Staff use of mobile phones: Please note that School staff are required to have and use their mobile phone as a part of their duties and responsibilities supporting site security. This mobile phone policy only applies to students.

Please Note: headphones are permissible under teacher direction for education purposes when linked to a computer or iPad. Students should not share headphones.