



Erskine Park High School

Pride In Achievement

78-82 Swallow Drive, Erskine Park NSW 2759
Website: www.erskinepk-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Phone: 9834 3536 Fax: 9834 3864
Email: erskinepk-h.admin@det.nsw.edu.au

Mobile Phone Policy

Reviewed February 2015

Learning at Erskine Park High School is our priority. Use of mobile phones during the day causes disruption to the smooth operation of the school and its primary function; it is intrusive and unsettling to the learning environment. Of equal concern is the fact that mobile phones have been targeted by thieves, with phones stolen from school bags or pockets.

Mobile phones can be surrendered to the Deputy Principal at the front office before school. The phone should be switched off and the student's name attached to it. Mobile phones handed to the DP will be stored securely in the school's strong room and returned at the end of the school day. Any messages can then be retrieved and students are able to communicate with parents as they travel home.

Mobile phones which are brought to school must be switched off and secured in the student's bag. They must not be used at any time during the school day, either to make calls, send or receive text messages or as a means to listen to music. The school has implemented a very clear procedure surrounding mobile phones. If a student does use their phone it can be confiscated and sanctions apply- such as faculty detentions for a first offence and after-school detentions and confiscation for a second offence. Repeated defiance of the school mobile phone policy will result in a warning of suspension and/or a short suspension.

Parents and guardians who need to contact a student during the day must only make contact with their son/daughter through the front office. Mobile phone calls to students interrupt learning and compromise staff and the school policy.

If a student misuses their phone and refuses to hand it over to a member of staff, this will be viewed as a breach of school discipline in that the student has failed to follow a reasonable instruction after electing not to follow the school's policy.

Mobile phone use or possession of a mobile phone in formal examinations is prohibited. All phones should be left at home. The Board of Studies upholds very strict rules regarding mobile phones in examinations. These guidelines can be accessed via the Board of Studies website.

Students and parents are reminded that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person and almost all calls, messages and emails can be traced. Mobile phones must not be used to take photographs, videos or voice recordings of other student or teachers. Unauthorised photography and voice recording from mobile phones will be treated as a serious violation of our shared rights and appropriate sanctions and restitution will apply.

To maximise learning, teachers must observe professional standards in mobile phone use. Taking phone calls in the playground or in the school buildings is not appropriate and can send conflicting messages in regards to agreed standards. Mobile phones should never be taken by teachers into the classroom.

This policy seeks to ensure that the learning environment at Erskine Park High School is one that recognises the right of students to learn and teachers to teach without interference or distractions from mobile phones. The above policy is based on advice provided to Erskine Park High School by the Department of Education Legal Branch.

Implementing the Mobile Phone Policy

