

Policy

The Department of Education does not permit student use of mobile phones in public schools unless for medical or teacher directed educational purpose.

It is important to note that it is not a requirement at North Albany SHS for students to have a mobile phone at school.

North Albany SHS recognises that an increasing number of parents/carers who for safety, security and/or emergency purposes wish to provide their children with mobile phones. This policy details the conditions under which mobile phones are permitted at North Albany SHS.

Conditions of Use

- The use of mobile phones and electronic devices for all students will be banned from the first bell of the day to the last bell of the school day. This includes at break times (off and away all day).
- The use of mobile phones for all students is not permitted “Bell to Bell”, unless under the instruction of a teacher or staff member. Mobile phones should be ‘off and away all day’.
- Students are permitted to have mobile phones in their possession during the school day, however they must be; turned off, neither seen nor heard and stored away i.e on the person, in student bags or in their locker.

Exemptions and Communication

- Exemptions to this ban include where a student requires a mobile phone:
 - to monitor a health condition as part of a school approved documented health care plan; or
 - under the direct instruction of a teacher for educational purposes; or with permission of a teacher for a specified purpose. Under no circumstance is listening to music allowed.
- Smart watches must be in ‘aeroplane mode’ so phone calls and messages cannot be sent or received during the school day.
- North Albany SHS has duty of care for all students when they are attending the school. In emergencies, where students need to get in contact with parents/carers, students are to notify the appropriate school staff. If parents/carers need to contact their children, they are asked to contact the school directly.

Breaches of this Policy

- In the first instance the teacher will confiscate the phone until the end of the lesson, refusal to follow the request will result in the HoLA being notified and phone confiscated until the end of the day. Phones will be held by either the confiscating HOLA or Administration.
- Further noncompliance will be managed in accordance with the *School Behaviour Management Policy and Procedures* which may include suspension.
- In the case of repeated inappropriate mobile phone use by a student, their mobile phone will be confiscated and held at the student services or administration. The parent/carer will be informed and requested to collect the mobile phone from the school at their earliest convenience

Further Guidance

For the purposes of this policy, ‘mobile phones and electronic devices’ includes smart watches and associated listening accessories, such as, but not limited to, headphones, ear buds and gaming devices.

As phone need to be off an away all day it is the responsibility of the student to adhere to the policy. Teachers are therefore not liable for any damage or loss of any device confiscated.