

MOBILE PHONE POLICY AND RULES

Willoughby Girls High School has very strict rules regarding the use of mobile phones at school.

Generally, mobile phones are not to be used during school time for any purposes. Exceptions can be made if students ask the teacher's permission to use her phone for a learning purpose in the classroom. Bring Your Own Learning Device encourages students to bring a laptop, iPad or tablet to school. These are appropriate devices on which to make notes, search the internet and engage in independent or collaborative learning as directed by the teacher.

Students must not use mobile devices at all in the playground during breaks – this includes phones, iPads, laptops, tablets. If a student must use her learning device (iPad, laptop, tablet) during breaks she can do so in the library.

Before school, recess, lunch and after school are times students should rest their brains and engage socially with friends. Texting or communicating via social media disconnects people from each other. Genuine interpersonal communication includes tone of voice, facial expression and voice expression. It is too easy to be unkind or inappropriate to others when not looking at them. It is also too easy to misunderstand the intention of some messages received via social media.

Students are not permitted to make contact with any person via mobile phone or social media during school hours – this includes contacting parents, other students or people outside the school. This is for students' personal safety. The school should know where students are at all times and who they are in contact with. Parents expect that we keep students safe from possible inappropriate contact in cyberspace.

If a student is sick or upset she needs to inform a teacher so the school can ensure she is properly cared for. If necessary the school will contact parents.

Students are not to use headphones during the school day. Students are expected to engage in the lesson during class time. There are some exceptions, such as when students are required to engage in independent listening in subjects such as languages, music or computing lessons. Multitasking is a myth – no human can focus on two things at once and do them both well. This has been well researched and the conclusions drawn are fairly consistent.

Students need to be able to hear what's going on around them and demonstrate awareness of other people. This can be a safety issue. Courtesy is another reason for this rule– having earphones in means students are not connecting with others in the room or playground.

Students must only ever access the Internet via the school's WiFi – mobile phones usually use 3G or 4G which bypass the Department of Education internet security. Bypassing this is in breach of the technology agreement all students and parents have signed and in breach of school and Department of Education policies.

Every student signed a technology agreement on enrolment. The agreement places responsibility on the individual student to follow the rules. Breaking these rules will result in detentions and in some cases, confiscation of the student's device. Your teachers will be monitoring this and all students are expected to follow their instructions.