



CRAIGMORE HIGH SCHOOL
2 Jamieson Road
Blakeview SA 5114
T: 8254 6522
E: dl.0976.info@schools.sa.edu.au
Principal: Sarah Jackson

Student use of mobile phones and personal devices at Craigmore High School

Scope

This school policy is implemented in line with the Department for Education's [Student use of mobile phones and personal devices policy](#), which applies to all government schools. This document provides direction to students, staff, and families about managing personal devices that students choose to bring to school.

For the purposes of this policy, **personal devices** include mobile phones, smart watches and other digital devices that are capable of sending or receiving messages or calls and/or able to connect to the internet, and personal laptops or iPads that are not owned by the school and have not been brought to school by the student under a separate Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) agreement.

Rationale

With the widespread and increasing ownership of mobile phones and other devices among students it is critical that schools, in partnership with families, provide clear guidance for students to become informed, safe, respectful, and responsible digital citizens.

It is the Department for Education's position that access to personal devices during school hours must be managed so that students can be fully present in their learning and in their interactions with their teachers and peers.

The aim of this policy is to help promote:

- safe environments with reduced negative impacts of inappropriate use of devices at school, such as cyberbullying, exposure to harmful content, and critical incidents that involve mobile phones
- classroom environments where teachers can teach, and students can learn, free from distractions caused by personal use of devices
- use of breaks as quality time away from screens, encouraging physical activity and play and meaningful face-to-face connections with peers

Personal devices at school

Students are permitted to bring personal devices to school:

- as a measure to ensure their safety while travelling to and from school
- so that parents and part-time employers can contact them outside of school hours

- so they can be contacted about a person under their own care, where applicable
- to be used during school hours in line with an exemption that has been approved by the school under this policy

While students are at school, or attending school activities, they must comply with any reasonable directions given by school staff in line with this policy regarding their personal devices.

The Department for Education’s policy requires all students at all department schools to **keep personal devices ‘off and away’ between the start and end of each school day, and while they are attending school activities off-site, such as camps and excursions.**

Students will not be able to access their personal devices at any time during school hours, unless they have received an approved [exemption](#) from the school to use the device for a specific, agreed reason. This means both physical access and remote access (e.g. connecting with the personal device via hotspot or using paired headphones).

Storage of personal devices at school

Students will turn their devices off or place them in flight mode before putting them away. This includes taking off and storing any wearable technology that fits the definition of this policy, such as smartwatches.

Students must keep mobile phones and other personal devices, (including: smart watches, music devices, earphones) out of sight before and after school while students are on school grounds, and during the school day. This includes school activities such as camps and excursions.

Responses to non-compliance

Where students use a personal device at school without an approved exemption, or use it inappropriately, a response will be provided in line with the school’s behaviour support policy.

At Craigmore High School:

1. Students cannot access their phones/devices at all while on school grounds without explicit instruction from a teacher or an exemption. This includes before and after school hours and during the school day, including recess and lunch times.
2. Students are not to access social networking sites at school as per the ICT Acceptable Use and Cyber Safety Agreement.
3. Students who choose to bring mobile phones or other devices to school accept sole responsibility for their care, including those with an exemption. As with any other personal items, the school cannot take any responsibility for phones that are lost, damaged or stolen.
4. Students who access their phone without permission while on school grounds before or after school, or during school time will need to lock their phone away. It will be stored securely in Student Reception or in the Wellbeing and Learning Hub for collection at the end of the day.
5. In the first instance, parents/carers will be notified via EdSmart. The student will lock up their phone and receive a reminder of the policy requirements.
6. If a student needs to make an essential phone call, they will need to do so from the Student Reception area. This will need to be negotiated with staff.

Where a student’s misuse of personal devices is serious, it may be necessary for the school to consider responses in line with the department’s suspension, exclusion and expulsion of students procedure, or to contact South Australia Police if the behaviour is suspected to be illegal.

Exemptions

Exceptional circumstances

Individual students may have extenuating reasons for needing access to their personal device during school hours, such as where:

- the device is used to monitor or help manage a health condition
- the device is a negotiated adjustment to a learning program for a student with disability or learning difficulties
- the device is used for translation by a student with English as an additional language
- the student has extenuating personal circumstances that require them to have more ready access to their personal device, such as being a parent themselves or a primary carer to a younger sibling or unwell family member

Please contact the school if you need to request an exemption due to exceptional circumstances. These requests will be considered by the principal (or delegate) on a case-by-case basis. If approved, the exemption will be recorded in the student's file or health care/learning plan as appropriate.

Students who have been issued an exemption can only use the mobile phone or personal device for the purpose for which the exemption was granted. Any use of these devices must be in line with this policy and the student's documented mobile phone exemption plan, and done in a safe, responsible, and respectful way.

Exemptions, if approved, will be recorded on the Learning Management System (Daymap) and a "Mobile Device Exemption Card" will be issued to the student. This must be carried with the device at all times and presented to staff on request.

Temporary exemptions for other agreed purposes

The following temporary exemptions may be sought by class teachers and available to students at the discretion of the Principal / Deputy Principal.

All exemptions are subject to the device being used appropriately and only for the purpose specifically permitted by the teacher. Personal devices must be put 'off and away' immediately after the exempted activity has concluded, and not brought to future lessons/activities without explicit teacher permission.

- Class teachers may seek permission for students (on an individual or whole-class basis) to use personal devices in the classroom for a specified learning activity.
- Students may be permitted to bring personal devices on a camp or excursion for learning purposes and/or to facilitate contact with their families at specified and supervised times. Expectations regarding student use of devices on the camp or excursion will be detailed in parent consent information.

Roles and responsibilities

Principal

- Make sure:
 - The school's policy has been endorsed or ratified by governing council and is clearly communicated and accessible to all students, staff, and families
 - there is a process for regular review of the school's local policy

- secure storage is provided for student personal devices that are locked away. The individual lockers and locks that the school provides are appropriately secure.
- processes are in place for monitoring internet and school network use by all members of the school community.
- Enforce the policy and responses to instances of non-compliance.
- Consider requests for exemptions from the policy from parents or independent students due to exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis. Make sure that approved exemptions in this category are documented and that relevant staff, including temporary relief teachers, are informed about students with an exemption.
- Consider and approve, at discretion, temporary exemptions in line with the conditions outlined in this policy.
- Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support school staff to do the same. Support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible, and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.
- Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate or illegal use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legal requirements.

School staff

- Deliver learning opportunities and maintain a safe and productive learning environment. Take steps to minimise distractions from the non-educational use of personal devices in the learning environment.
- Respond to instances of non-compliance in line with the school's policy.
- Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legal requirements.
- Ensure students who are given permission to access their personal device use it appropriately and only for the specified purpose, and store their personal devices away after the exempted activity has concluded.
- Make sure that any student personal devices handed in for their care are stored in a secure location and are returned to the student (or their parent) by the end of the same school day.
- Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible, and respectful use of mobile phones to their children. Use mobile phones for work-related/emergency purposes only when students are under their care.

Students

- Comply with the requirements of this policy and follow all reasonable directions from the principal and school staff.
- Switch all personal devices off, or into flight mode, on arrival at school each day and store it away as specified in this policy.
- If permitted to use a mobile phone or personal device in line with an exemption under this policy, do so in a safe, responsible, and respectful way and support peers to do the same.

- Communicate respectfully with others and do not use a mobile phone or other personal device to bully, harass, or threaten another person.
- Respect others' rights to privacy and do not take photos, film, or audio records of other people without their knowledge or permission.
- Notify a school staff member as soon as possible if feeling unwell or experiencing any other issues at school. Use the school's sign-out processes in all cases where requiring early collection from school.

Parents / Carers

- Support the school's implementation of this policy, including the consequences for non-compliance.
- Encourage their child not to bring a personal device to school unless necessary. Understand that the department does not provide insurance for accidental loss or damage to personal property that is brought onto school grounds (however, claims may be met under the department's public liability insurance where the loss or damage can be attributed to a negligent act or omission on the part of the school – the school will contact the department for advice if this may be the case).
- Use the school's formal communication channels in all instances to communicate with the school or to make contact with their child during school hours (including where a student requires early collection from school). Encourage their child to always report to a school staff member in the first instance if they become unwell or experience an issue at school.
 - Student Reception (phone 8254 6522) is the appropriate point of contact for parents/carers, including where urgent contact needs to be made with students.
 - If students need to be picked up from school, Student Reception will contact you.
- Recognise the important role they play in supporting their child to use their mobile phone (or other personal device) in a safe, responsible, and respectful way.

Supporting links

LINKS TO DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION POLICY

Student use of mobile phones and personal devices policy

<https://edi.sa.edu.au/library/document-library/controlled-policies/student-use-of-mobile-phones-and-personal-devices-policy>

Communication and review

The local decisions pertaining to the implementation of the Craigmore High School student use of mobile phones and personal devices policy have been made in consultation with staff, students, and the community. The policy has been approved by Governing Council.

The Craigmore High School student use of mobile phones and personal devices policy:

- Can be accessed on the school website and by contacting the school
- Will be revised on a yearly basis through a consultation process with staff, students, families and Governing Council

Questions, concerns, and further information

This policy has been implemented by the school in line with the Department for Education's 'Student use of mobile phones and personal devices policy'. You can find more information about this policy, and links to further resources for parents about personal devices and online safety, on the department's website: [Mobile phones and personal devices at school \(education.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.education.sa.gov.au/mobile-phones-and-personal-devices-at-school).

If you have any questions or concerns about the department's policy, you can contact the department at:

Email: education.customers@sa.gov.au or submit an [online feedback form](#)

Phone: Free call: 1800 088 158

Please contact the school directly to discuss the possibility of an exemption if your child has exceptional circumstances as outlined in this policy.