

Nossal High School Mobile Phone Policy Parent and Student FAQs



Mobile Phone Policy Most Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Mobile Phone ban?
From 2020 all Government schools are required to ban student use of mobile phones during the school day (including recess and lunchtime)
2. Can students still bring their phone to school and carry it with them?
They can bring the phone to school, but it must be turned off and secured in their locker from the start until the end of the school day, and not used. They cannot carry it with them.
3. Does the mobile phone ban extend to Smart Watches and Fitbits?
No – at this stage the ban only applies to phones.
4. Will they need to lock their locker now?
That would be advisable – Nossal is generally a safe environment and many students choose not to lock their lockers, however there is no guarantee their phones will be safe if they are unlocked and it is the student's responsibility to ensure they are secured.
5. What if they no longer have a lock?
New locks can be purchased through the office; they also have a large number of cheap second-hand locks.
NOTE: Students must use the specific school designated combination lock – not bring one in from home.
6. Are they allowed to use their phones during study periods?
No – the ban applies from 8.48 am until 3.20 pm (1.20 pm on Wednesdays) when on school grounds regardless of whether the students have classes or study periods.
7. What about recess and lunchtime?
The ban applies during recess and lunchtime.
8. Can they use their phones on the school grounds before 8.48 am and after 3.20 pm? (1.20 pm on Wednesdays)
Yes.
9. What will happen if a student has a mobile phone with them?
Any staff member will ask the student to hand it to them, will take their name and the phone will be handed in to the office where it will be securely stored. A Compass entry will record the confiscation.

10. What will the office do?

The phone will be stored in the office in an envelope with the student's name; the office will make a Compass entry to alert Heads of House and record the confiscation for further action if subsequent breaches occur. For the first offence – students will collect the phone after school.

11. What if the student refuses to hand over the phone?

The Heads of House or Principal Class will intervene and parents will be contacted.

12. Who will deal with students who are seen using their phones at recess or lunch?

Any staff member who sees them with the phone has an obligation to confiscate the phone and pass it to the office.

13. What are the consequence for first, second, third, and additional times students are found to have phones in class or in the yard?

First Offence – phone returned at the end of the day – Compass entry by office

Second Offence – Interview with Head of House – Nossal service duty

Third Offence and subsequent offences – Parent interview – Head of House and/or Principal class - escalating punitive consequences as per Student Engagement Guidelines

14. Will there be a different consequence if a student simply has the phone in class vs if they use it?

No - the phone will be confiscated and handed to the office if sighted.

15. What happens if students need to use their phones for educational reasons and there are no other available options?

The classroom teacher may apply to the Principal for an exemption to the Policy for specific dates and times. The exemption must include the educational reasons and why mobile phones are the only alternative. The phone can only be used for that purpose at that time.

16. When will students collect phones and then return them if their teacher has been granted an exemption for a particular task or class?

At the usual locker times so they are not disrupting other classes; therefore, in exceptional circumstances, they may have (but not use) their phone during Period 1 if required for an activity period 2 for example. (and vice versa)

17. What exceptions will be made for students with particular needs?

As per the policy – if there is a need for students carry a phone, in exceptional circumstances an exemption will be granted, but only to meet the particular need. (ie. medical) The Principal will issue students with an exemption authority to carry with them, and there will be a notation on Compass for the individual student.

18. What school resources are available that can replace the educational use of a mobile phone?

Most uses can be covered by their tablet, although some may not be as easy or convenient.

19. What will happen if students cannot bring their laptop or their laptop needs repairs – can they use their phone instead?

No. There are a limited number of laptops that may be borrowed for the short term from the IRC or the IT office while the technicians are making the repairs.

20. I have heard that some schools are letting students use their phones to pay at the canteen, use Compass and use the internet.

The ban is mandatory and all government schools are required to implement the policy. Mobile devices, such as mobile phones must not be used during the school day.

21. What if we disagree with the Policy? Can we challenge it or turn a blind eye?

No – the policy is mandated and we have no choice. It is essential that we are all absolutely consistent in our approach and responses to minimize breaches and conflict.

22. Will this create conflict and undermine the adult learning environment?

We hope not – the policy is mandatory – we will be open and transparent with the students and clear about the process and rules. We hope to keep it simple and will be absolutely consistent in applying the policy.

23. Does the ban apply to teaching or ES staff?

No – only students at this stage

24. How can we cater for EAL students who use their phones for translation?

They will be able to use their laptop.

25. How will students access their timetables, or room changes?

Via their laptops and Teams.

26. How will students tell the time?

Via their tablets, watches, or clocks on the wall.

27. What if a student needs to contact their family?

In an emergency the student will be able to report to the office use a school phone (Principal team office)

28. What if a parent needs to contact their student during the school day?

Via email for preference, but if urgent will have to ring the office and they will send a Teams message, or a runner to the class if urgent.

29. Will students be able to use their mobile phones on excursions and camps?

Yes; unless otherwise determined by the camp excursion leader.

Please refer to the [Nossal High School Mobile Phone Policy 2020](#)

If there are any other areas or issues that need clarification, please contact a principal team member.

***Roger Page
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