



ORANA STEINER SCHOOL MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Orana Steiner School believes that part of the responsibility of a 21st century Steiner school is to construct an environment that will allow our adolescent students to escape the pressures of social media and other addictive aspects of their personal devices. We believe this to be essential to our objective of educating the whole child.

Orana Steiner School's mobile phone policy stipulates that students are not to access or use their phones during school time.

Recent studies appear to be building a scientific consensus that there is a link between mobile phone use and negative mental health outcomes. In response to these links and issues with inappropriate use at school, staff trialed the restriction of phone use during school hours in the latter part of 2019 in a bid to best support our students with responsible and healthy use of technology.

On review, mobile phone access times have been amended to allow students to contact parents/carers in order to manage transport and after school activities at the conclusion of afternoon classes at 3:15pm. An amendment for repeated contravention of the rules has been added for High School students. See below for detail.

Rules and Conditions

- Mobile phones are not to be brought into the classroom under any circumstances and are not to be seen at school between 8.30am – 3.15pm.
- Mobile phones should be placed in school bags or lockers and are not to be carried around in pockets.
- A safe and secure place for student phones will be provided for students who do not wish to leave them in their bags outside their classroom. They may be dropped off at the SRC before school and collected after 3.10pm
- Students who are on Individual Learning Programs and need to document work digitally will still be able access photos of classwork etc. – any required photos will be taken by their teacher and uploaded to Schoolbox for students to access.
- Students needing to make contact home will have access to a phone in the SRC foyer. In any instance where students need access to their mobile phone, this may only be done with permission from a teacher, under direct supervision at the front office or SRC foyer.
- Students who are found to be contravening these rules by accessing their mobile phones will have their phones confiscated for the remainder of the day. Phones will only be returned to a parent/carer by a member of the Pastoral Care Team or High School Reception. Students **will not** be allowed to collect their phones without a parent/carer.
- Should COVID regulations restrict parent access to the campus students will be allowed to collect their phone at the end of the school day and the following procedure will take immediate effect
- Students who are found to be contravening the above stated rules, leading to confiscation more than once in the school term will be required to hand phones in at 8:45am each school day for the remainder of the school.
- Under the updated policy, any student who takes or distributes photos or videos of teachers or posts them on social media platforms will face possible expulsion.