



# Mobile Phones & Personal e-Devices

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v.12/3/18

## Vision Statement

Hunter School of the Performing Arts (HSPA) provides a creative learning environment where excellence is nurtured to enable all students to perform at their best.

## Context

HSPA is a highly successful K-12 public school where all students gain entry via an audition process in dance, drama, music or related area.

## Rationale

A large number of students have mobile phones/e-devices in their possession while at school. This is understandable for students who travel significant distances to attend School each day and whose parents may want that added security for their children. Parents need to be aware that the safekeeping and security of phones and personal e-devices is the responsibility of the student. HSPA will not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to mobile phones or e-devices. Students should not leave their bags unattended, particularly if it contains valuables such as a phone or wallet.

The potential exists for mobile phones/e-devices to be used in a way that jeopardises the safety and wellbeing of others. Of particular concern are incidents where camera/device phones are used to take photos of individuals and distribute them without their permission, where SMS text messages/images are used as a tool for bullying or harassment or to cheat during exams. It is expected that students will use their mobile phones/e-devices in a way which reflects the core values being taught in schools, including the values of respect, responsibility, care and fairness.

## General Principles

- Unless approved for use by the teacher as part of the teaching and learning program, mobile phones must be turned off during all classes, roll call and assemblies (and similar). Phones left on can disrupt a lesson, performance or assessment. Phones should not be set to vibrate as this can also be very distracting to teaching and learning.
- Parents who wish to get an urgent message to their child can do so through contact with the School Office, and a message will be sent to the classroom.
- Inappropriate use of a mobile phone/e-device includes:
  - using it in a way that disrupts or is likely to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school or institute
  - bullying, intimidating or otherwise harassing others through SMS or text messaging or through photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the phone
  - recording of conversations, including lessons, without the knowledge and permission of the teacher or those involved in the conversation
  - downloading or otherwise accessing inappropriate material on the internet such as child abuse or pornographic or other offensive material
  - filming of fights or other criminal behaviour involving students that occur at school or the institute, during school or institute activities or while on the way to or from school
  - using it in a way that threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or wellbeing of any person
  - use that is in breach of any law.
  - any use that contravenes other DE policies.
- If students use mobile phones/e-devices inappropriately, the principal or delegate has the right to take action. Depending on the circumstances, action can include:

- banning students from using mobile phones/e-devices during the course of the school day
- confiscating mobile phones from individual students
- requiring students to hand in their mobile phones/e-devices to designated school staff at the beginning of the school day for collection when students go home
- applying other student disciplinary measures as per the school's Discipline Policy
- reporting the matter to the police.

**Related Documents/Information**

- [NSW DE Legal Bulletin Issue No.35](#)
- [Online Communication Services: acceptable usage for school students](#)

**Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

This policy will be formally reviewed as part of the School's Strategic Plan review cycle, and/or if HSPA circumstances change, and/or if any changes are made to relevant NSW DE policy/procedures.

- End of Policy -