



## 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 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 each year a number of phones are lost, or reported missing and that the *safekeeping and security of phones is the responsibility of the student*. Students should not leave their bag unattended, particularly if it contains valuables such as a phone or wallet.

There is the potential for mobile telephones to be used in a way that jeopardises the safety and wellbeing of others. Of particular concern are incidents where camera phones are used to take photos of individuals and distribute them without their permission, where SMS text messages are used as a tool for bullying or harassment or to cheat during exams. It is expected that students will use their mobile telephone 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, phones must be turned off during all classes, roll call and assemblies (or similar). Phones left on can ring and will disrupt a lesson, performance or assessment. Phones should not be set to silent or vibrate, as these modes can also be very distracting to the teaching and learning.
- Phones that disrupt a lesson may be taken by the class teacher and placed in the school safe until the end of the school day. Repeat offenders may have their phone placed in the safe and collected by a parent.
- Parents who wish to get an urgent message to their child can do so through contact with the School Office, who will send a message to the classroom.
- Students who wish to use a phone to ring a parent should see their Year Adviser who, on assessment of the need, will issue them with a note to take to the School Office.
- consequences will apply if students use mobile phones inappropriately. Inappropriate use of a mobile phone 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 or the institute
  - 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.

## Related Documents/Information

- [NSW DE Legal Bulletin Issue No.35](#)

**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 NSWDE policy/procedures.

- End of Policy -