



## Mobile Phone & Personal Electronic Devices Policy

From 1 January 2023, Northern Territory Government Department of Education has directed that student mobile phones are not permitted to be used in Northern Territory government schools. Exemptions apply for teacher directed educational purposes or medical reasons.

The aim of this policy is to:

- eliminate disruption to educational programs through the receipt and transmission of phone calls or messages
- eliminate privacy concerns related to photographs, videoing or recording conversations without the knowledge of those being recorded
- provide a safe environment to learn without inappropriate use of, or distractions from, mobile phones and smart watches, such as cyberbullying, threats of violence, or accessing inappropriate materials via the internet
- provide greater opportunities for social interaction and physical activity during school break times
- Taminmin College acknowledges that mobile phones may be used as a safety measure out of school hours for children who travel alone, on public transport or commute long distances to school. Parent/guardians are reminded that they can provide messages to their child by contacting the College. This remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted appropriately

For the purpose of this policy, 'device' includes mobile phones, smart watches and other electronic communication devices that have access to internet, social media and/or have the capability to capture images or video. Also included are associated listening accessories such as, but not limited to, headphones, ear buds, etc.

Parent/guardians, students, and Taminmin College staff are all responsible for correct use of personal electronic devices at Taminmin College.

Condition of use during school hours:

1. Students must have their devices switched off and in their school bag before entering the College grounds and for the duration of the school day.
2. Smart watches must be placed on flight mode so phone calls and messages cannot be sent or received during the school day.
3. Students are permitted to use their mobile phones and smart watches after 3.10pm.
4. Mobile phones not in school bags are required to be stored at main reception.
5. Taminmin College staff can give permission to a student to access their mobile phone, only for a specified purpose, storing mobile phones away after the exempted activity has concluded. The staff member will monitor the use during this specified time.
6. A variation will be granted to those students who have a diagnosed medical condition as part of a school-approved, documented health care plan or education adjustment plan.



7. The canteen will only accept payments with physical bank cards, cash or through the online ordering system. Mobile phones and smart watches can not be used as a payment method.
8. Parent/guardians are reminded that they can provide messages to their child by contacting the College 8983 7000. The office staff will ensure your child is contacted promptly.
9. Personal electronic devices must not be used to invade the privacy of others or breach the law. Students who use a mobile phone or other personal electronic device either by a direct phone call, text message, posting or other function to bully, harass, threaten, abuse, vilify or embarrass other students or staff will face disciplinary action, including the potential for suspension and reporting to Police.

Consequences for unacceptable use of devices, or failure to comply with expectations outlined in this policy will be dealt with by the following:

- First breach: the student hands the device in at the main reception where it stays and is stored securely for the rest of the day, with the student to collect it at the end of the school day
- Second breach: the student hands the device in at the main reception where it stays and is stored securely for the rest of the day, with the student to collect it at the end of the school day. Parents/guardians are contacted by the appropriate Year Level Coordinator to notify that should another breach occur, the parent/guardian will need to collect the device from the main reception
- Third breach: the student hands the device in at the main reception where it is stored securely, and a parent/guardian will need to collect the device from the main reception
- Fourth breach: the student hands the device in at the main reception where it is stored securely, and a parent/guardian will need to make arrangements for a meeting with an Assistant Principal or the Principal and collect the device

Please note: whenever a student hands their device in at the main reception, they will receive a receipt for their device. All devices will be stored in a secure storeroom. This policy, and procedures relating to it will reset at the beginning of each school term.

Students who choose to bring their device to school do so at their own risk. The College will not be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged personal devices.

While this policy does not cover student access to social media sites out of school hours, the school will however, report these incidents to Police or the Office of the E-Safety Commissioner if they are unsafe interactions and/or if they adversely impact the learning and behaviour of students at school.



Parents/guardians share responsibility for:

- supporting the implementation of the school's local mobile phones policy and ensuring their child complies with the policy
- notifying the school if their child requires an exemption to the school's local mobile phones policy for medical purposes and providing the school with the appropriate documents to support the requirement for exemption
- using the school's formal communication channels in all instances to communicate with the school or to contact their child during school hours, including where a student requires early collection from school
- recognising the important role they play in supporting their child to use their mobile phone and smart watches in a safe, responsible, and respectful way

Parent/guardian and student conditions of use sign-off

Schools are responsible for maintaining adequate records and must keep the signed parent/guardian and student acceptable use sign-off section of this form for their records.

#### Parent and student sign-off

I have read and understood the conditions of use of personal digital devices at Taminmin College.

For Responsible use –

I give my child permission to bring their personal digital devices to Taminmin College and use them in line with the school-based procedure on acceptable use.

I understand that my child will be responsible for ensuring that all personal digital devices are used appropriately and correctly while under the school's supervision and that responsibility for the personal digital device is shared by my child and I.

I understand this form will be kept on file at the school.

For a child living independently, as defined under section 10 of the *Education Act 2015* (NT), no parent signature is required and the child living independently accepts responsibility for the above.

Parent/Guardian name			
Parent/Guardian name signature		Date	
Student name			
Student signature		Date	