



# MOBILE PHONE AND WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY POLICY

All Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) Services have an obligation to provide a safe environment in which school age children can engage in a range of play activities and join in a variety of cultural, artistic and leisure experiences. Such experiences allow children to interact with friends, practice social skills and solve problems.

This policy is to explain the use of mobile phones and wearable technology such as, smart watches, during Our Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) hours. We recognise that an increasing number of parents/guardians wish to provide their children with **mobile phones or wearable technology with messaging, Internet and Bluetooth capabilities** for safety, security and/or emergency. While mobile phones and/or wearable devices are permitted at OOSH Northern Beaches, it is discouraged unless there is a compelling reason to do so.

We acknowledge the shared responsibility of supporting school policy and respect the collaborative partnerships we have formed with our feeder primary schools and families. Our Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) Service will implement a mobile phone policy from day one, Term 4 (14<sup>th</sup> October 2024).

## NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
QUALITY AREA 5: RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN		
5.1	Relationships between educators and children	Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child.
5.1.2	Dignity and rights of the child	The dignity and rights of every child are maintained.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
84	Awareness of child protection law
155	Interactions with children



## RELATED POLICIES

Behaviour Guidance Bullying Policy Children's Belongings Policy Child Protection Policy Child Safe Environment Policy Cyber Safety Policy	Interactions with Children, Family and Staff Policy Orientation of Families Policy Privacy and Confidentiality Policy Photograph Policy
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## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safe and appropriate use of mobile phones and wearable technology for the benefit of all students at OOSH Northern Beaches.

To ensure compliance with the National Quality Standard and National Regulations we aim to provide an environment that is always safe for all students and staff. The outcomes of the 'My Time, Our Place' Framework are reflected in our policy to ensure the OSHC environment is supporting children's emotional wellbeing, physical safety and cyber safety.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at OOSH Northern Beaches and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones including wearable technology brought onto the premises during OOSH Northern Beaches hours.

## DEFINITIONS

**A mobile phone** is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

**Wearable technology** is any device that can be worn that connects to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network. It may take phone calls, send messages or take photos or videos that can be transmitted to others outside school. E.g. Apple Watch, V-Tech Smart Watch.

## IMPLEMENTATION

We understand and accept that parents/guardians often provide a mobile device or wearable technology for their child/ren to provide personal security and safety whilst they travel to and from school.

Additionally, some schools have a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy to provide opportunities for



students to engage in the curriculum and therefore students *may* have a mobile device with them when they attend OSHC.

However, within our Service, mobile devices and wearable devices are **not** permitted to be utilised as we provide a balance of activities for students where this technology is not required. Some children with a disability or health condition, may rely on the use of a mobile device and/or wearable technology for support needs will be exempt from this restriction. Exemptions must be made to Management or the Approved Provider and clearly documented in the child's enrolment record.

In order for a student to bring a mobile phone or wearable device parents/guardians need to complete the permission form requesting permission for their child to have the device at OSHC and return to Management.

### THE APPROVED PROVIDER/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR/EDUCATORS WILL ENSURE:

- children, families and carers attending Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) adhere to the policy
- any external communication is supervised and made using the OSHC registered phone
- parents/guardians can access the OSHC phone number to make contact if required
- children do not use their mobile device or wearable device whilst attending OSHC, including attending excursions and/or incursions
- the OSHC takes no responsibility for mobile devices or wearable technology that are brought to the Service (this includes if mobile device or wearable technology is stolen, lost or is damaged).
- all mobile devices or wearable technology must be clearly labelled with the child's name
- consultation will be made with management and parents/guardians of a child who requires access to a mobile phone or wearable technology due to their disability or medical condition.

### STORAGE OF MOBILE DEVICES

If a child must bring a mobile phone or wearable technology to OSHC for any reason, it will be stored in one of the ways listed below:

- stored in a locked cupboard within the Service and collected by parents/guardians at the end of the day
- turned off and stored in the child's school bag.



## CONSEQUENCES

In the event of a child using their mobile device or wearable technology without permission, the child will be directed to place the device in a locked cupboard for the remainder of the session and returned to the parent/guardians at the end of the day.

Should the child be accessing inappropriate content or using the camera/recorder on the device without permission, written notification will be provided to parents/guardians advising them of the incident. The letter may also outline future restrictions to be imposed on the student's eligibility to have their mobile phone or wearable device at the Out of School Hours Service at any time.

Any intentional misuse of a mobile phone or wearable device for the purpose of online bullying, image-based or recording-based abuse will be investigated and reported to relevant child protection authorities such as the Office of the [eSafety Commissioner](#).

## EDUCATIONAL JURISDICTIONS POLICY INFORMATION

NSW: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/strategies-and-reports/our-reports-and-reviews/mobile-devices-in-schools>

## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

Our *Mobile Phone and Wearable Technology Policy* will be reviewed on a regular basis in consultation with children, families, staff, educators and management.

## SOURCE

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Australian Government Department of Education (2022). [My Time, Our Place- Framework for School Age Care in Australia. V2.0](#)

Australian Government eSafety Commissioner

Centre of Education Statistics and Evaluation (2018) *Impact of mobile digital devices in schools*

Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023).

[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (Amended 2023).

[eSafety Commissioner](#)

NSW Department of Education *Review into the non-education use of mobile devices in NSW*. (2018).

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).



## REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED BY	All Team Leaders/HO	Sent to Families 27.09.24 for review	26.09.24
POLICY IMPLEMENTED	OCTOBER 2024	NEXT REVIEW DATE	OCTOBER 2025
VERSION NUMBER	V1.10.24		



## Mobile Phone/Wearable Technology Permission

Child Name \_\_\_\_\_

My child needs to bring the following device to school:

- Mobile Phone
- Wearable technology eg. Smart watch

For the following reason/s:

- Independent travel to and from school – Walk/Bus/Bike
- Other Safety Reasons – please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

- Other– please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

I (parent/guardian name) \_\_\_\_\_ have read and acknowledged the OOSH Northern Beaches Mobile Phone and Wearable Technology policy.

My child understands the OSHC protocols and agrees to abide by them.

I hereby give permission for my child to have a mobile phone at school and agree that my child will follow the OSHC protocols.

Signature of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_