

## Mobile phones and electronic devices must be off and away all day

Dear parents/carers,

The Northern Territory Governments [Student Mobile Phones in Government Schools Policy](#) commences this year from Day 1 of Term 1, for all government schools. This new policy requires phones and other electronic devices brought to school to be off and away during the school day.

For Darwin Middle School students this means that all devices must be switched off, stored securely in their school bag and not accessed from the time they arrive at school to the time they depart, including recess and lunch.

In addition to mobile phones, this policy applies devices such as headphones (both in ear and over ear) smart watches, iPad/tablets and gaming devices which will need to be switched to flight mode for the duration of the school day.

Darwin Middle School provides ICT equipment/devices that supports teaching and learning programs. The school ICT equipment/devices are for educational purposes appropriate to the school environment. Student laptops may be utilised via our ICT network to support learning during class time, but must be turned off and stored during recess and lunch.

The school understands communication between students and families may be necessary in the event of an emergency etc. In such events parents can contact the school **Administration Office on 8942 5200**. Students will also have access to this service if they need to contact their parents during the day.

For some students, mobile phones and apps are critical for monitoring their health condition. As such, students may be granted an exemption to use their mobile phone and smart watch during the school day:

- to monitor a health condition as part of a school approved documented health care plan
- for a particular educational purpose under the direct instruction of a teacher
- with permission of a teacher for a specific purpose
- in the event of an emergency.

Exemptions for medical/health purposes will need to be part of the students Health Care Plan.

COMPASS will continue to be our key point of communication and can be accessed by students and parents at home. When school returns, Darwin Middle School will be providing a hard copy timetable for students.

**Students will be unable to use their devices to make purchases** at the school, this includes the Driftwood Café. Cash or card will still be accepted.

Devices not off and away will be confiscated and securely stored at the Office of Good Standing for the remainder of the school day. Students will not be given permission to leave class early to collect devices; this is important to note for those students who need to catch the bus as the earliest busses depart by 2:34pm.

Breaches of this policy will be dealt with as follows:

**First offence:** have their mobile phone confiscated and held at the office. The student will need to collect their mobile phone at the end of the school day.

**Second offence:** the mobile phone will be confiscated and held at the office. The parent will be informed and requested to collect the mobile phone.

**Third offence:** further disciplinary action will be applied in accordance with the [Responsible Behaviour Plan](#) which may include suspension.

We recognise that these changes may be challenging for some students and appreciate your support as they adjust to school without mobile devices. Discussion about mobile device use is a great way to support safe and responsible use of technology. The [eSafety Commission](#) has resources available to support families through this transition.

For more information please contact the school on 8942 5200

