Umina Beach Public School supports the restrictions of mobile phones in accordance with the NSW Department of Education: Students’ Use of Mobile Phones in Schools policy *(insert link)*. Mobile phone use in schools can impact student learning and wellbeing. Restricting mobile phone use at school aims to increase focus in classrooms, remove distractions and promote positive social interaction, while reducing the potential for online bullying. Umina Beach Public School has strong teaching and learning practices to support students in the classroom using various forms of appropriate technology, which maximises the benefits and minimises the risks of digital environments and prepare students for life beyond school. We foster a safe learning environment which supports and enhances each child’s social and emotional health through our wellbeing and learning support teams.

**Mobile phones must be ‘Off and Away’:**

* All mobile phones will be ‘off and away’ for the full school day, including recess and lunch.
* Students have a responsibility to turn off their phone and store it safely in their school bag for the course of the school day.
* Parent/carers should not contact students via mobile during the school day. Parents/carers should contact the school by phone or email in regard to changes to pick up arrangements.
* If required, students may choose to hand their phone in at the office for safe storage. It is the student’s responsibility to collect their phone at the end of the day.
* In accordance with department and school policy, students are not permitted to make calls or send messages during the school day.
* In accordance with department and school policy, students must not use their phone to film/record/take photos/upload or share material during the school day. Students are informed of the serious consequences that may apply if related policy is not followed.
* There may be students who have a medical, wellbeing or learning need which will require them to access a mobile phone. Parents/carers will need to apply for a Mobile Phone Exemption Pass.

**Other information:**

There may be individual circumstances where a child may be anxious or concerned at school. In the first instance, the child should talk with their teacher or another trusted adult at the school. Students can access support at the office if they need further assistance. If it is considered that communication with a parent/carer family member would assist in reducing anxiety, this will be organised for the support of the child.

In some circumstances, students may be able to check their mobile phone during the school day, if they have asked permission from their teacher.