

NHS Away for the Session

Phone Rules



The following rules are designed to ensure that the learning of all students is maximised, while minimising any potential for distraction and cyber-bullying. The Northern Health School has taken an “**away for the session**” approach.

When and where do the rules apply

The school defines a contact session as a block of time when the student is working with or supervised by NHS staff. This might be for a regular school day, such as a hospital classroom, or part of a school day, in a community support centre classroom session or a meeting with a teacher (online or in person). Sessions are conducted in a wide range of ways and places, including trips, education outside the classroom and education activities organised by the school.

For any NHS sessions, phones either do not come with the student, or are switched off and in a bag, or an agreed safe place.

Additional Considerations

- Students who are working with NHS staff at their school of enrolment must follow that school’s rules.
- It is important to note that if students do make the decision to bring a phone, they do so at their own risk. The school is not responsible for any loss or damage caused to any phone.
- We understand that some parents like their children to have a phone to communicate with them. Students may use their phones after the contact session finishes. If a parent or caregiver needs to contact their child urgently during a contact session, they should call the school Unit, or contact their child via email.

Phones ‘away for the session’ expectations

Students are always encouraged to regulate themselves and develop healthy in person relationships. In circumstances where a member of staff considers the device to be a harmful, disruptive, or distracting influence, the student may be asked to turn the phone off and return it to their bag, or agreed safe location. In very serious circumstances, it may be confiscated for the rest of the teaching session. The device would then be returned to the student at the conclusion of the session and the inappropriate use recorded.

Inappropriate use of a phone includes (but is not limited to):

- Using the device when not permitted
- Any sort of bullying, including online bullying
- Taking photos or videos of other people without their permission
- Forwarding inappropriate messages or content.

Exceptions to the rules.

Leaders in each Unit may make exceptions to the rules, where phones are required:

- For a learning activity, including Education Outside the Classroom.
- To increase or improve a student's ability to participate and learn.
- To support a student's additional learning needs.
- To support a student's immediate or ongoing health and safety.

The phone's use will be supervised by a staff member and guidelines on appropriate usage still apply. Exceptions should be noted in the student's ILP.