



Student use of Mobile Phone Policy

Purpose

Mobile phones and other electronic devices are powerful tools and with continued enhancements to technology, their capabilities extend far beyond making phone calls. For example, they may be used to text or email, take photographs, or to access the Internet and social networking applications.

This policy is intended to provide parents and caregivers with guidelines on how and when mobile phones may be brought into, and used at, the School. It also aims to define inappropriate use of mobile phones and how the School will manage this should it occur.

Rationale

The school recognises that parents give their children mobile phones for personal security and safety. Parents may also be concerned about children travelling alone on public transport or commuting long distances to and from school. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently.

Our core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in a safe environment free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions. Therefore the school strongly discourages the bringing of mobile phones to school by students. The school is prepared to allow mobile phones on the premises but only within the parameters of the Key Policy Statements.

Key Policy Statements

- Mobile phones remain the sole responsibility of the student owner. Students and parents should be aware that students bringing mobile phones to the School do so at their own risk. The School will not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to mobile phones.
- Mobile phones should be kept inside a school bag at all times both on school premises and school bus services.
- Mobile phones are to be switched off before entering the school bus before and after school or at any time school they are at School.
- No phone calls or texts (inbound or outbound) are permitted at School or when travelling on the school bus.
- Students are not permitted to use any photographic function, gaming, Internet or texting function at School or while travelling on a school bus service

- Any calls to students (including in matters of emergency) must be made through the School office and not directly to a student's mobile phone.
- The Acceptable Use Policy for mobile devices does not apply to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities. Mobile phones are not permitted at these activities. When representing the school at sporting activities, the same responsibilities and consequences will be applied as at school.
- Inappropriate use of a mobile phone encompasses any occasion when a student (or students) uses a phone to bully, intimidate or otherwise harass another student or staff member at School. This includes through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on a phone. There are laws covering threatening and bullying behaviours via mobile phone use which may apply.
- Students should never use their mobile phones to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the School.
- Breaches of this policy will result in students not being permitted to have a mobile phone at School. Further, any inappropriate use could contravene the law and result in referring the matter to police.

Principal's Responsibilities

The Principal will

- liaise with staff, school bus services and parents about school policy and expectations relating to student use of mobile phones
- regularly communicate the school's Student Use of Mobile Phone Policy and related expectations to parents, staff and students
- monitor and review practices relating to the use of mobile devices in the school

Staff Members' Responsibilities

Staff will

- inform and remind students regularly about this policy and refer any breach of policy guidelines to the Principal.
- ensure that students who infringe the School policy face having their mobile devices confiscated.

The mobile device would be taken to a secure place within the school and the student's parent informed. Appropriate arrangements would then be made for the parents to collect the mobile device.

Responsibilities – Students and Parents

Students and their parents will

- read and understand this policy before students are permitted to bring their mobile phones to school.
- accept responsibility of students who bring mobile devices to school to abide by the guidelines.
- Understand that repeated infringements may result in the School banning the student from bringing the mobile telephone or digital device to school.

Evaluation

- The Student use of Mobile Phones Policy implementation is to be reviewed on an annual basis at the beginning of each year. Recommendations for improvement are to be actioned.
- All new staff are required to be informed of policy and procedures.

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