



MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Introduction

As a communication device mobile phones, when used appropriately, offer students and their parents many advantages in terms of ease of communication and a sense of personal safety. However, mobile phones have the capacity to have a negative impact on the learning environment and the safety and well being of students.

This policy aims to establish guidelines for the use of student mobile phones within the school environment and aims to set out the responsibility of staff, parents and students.

What Is Inappropriate Use?

The use of mobile phones in schools should not automatically be of concern. It is only if a mobile phone is used inappropriately that action will be necessary.

Generally, a mobile phone will be used inappropriately if it:

- disrupts or is likely to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school, or
- threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or well being of any person, or
- is in breach of any law.

Inappropriate use of mobile phones will include students using them to bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the phone. This type of misuse will be dealt with under the Student Welfare and Discipline Policy.

Guidelines For Use?

1. Once at school the phones should be turned off and kept in school bags. This is to ensure that phones are kept safe and are not misused. If a parent needs to contact a student please contact the school office on 8824 3333.

2. Students must not lend a phone to another student for use as a phone, for text messaging or for use as a camera or video recording device. The student who owns the phone will be held responsible for its use.

Responsibility for Mobile Phones

Students bring mobile phones to school at their own risk – the school and school staff members will not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to mobile phones or for investigating loss or damage, if the student fails to comply with school policy.

Related Technology

The procedures applying to the inappropriate use and security of mobile phones, apply equally to the inappropriate use of portable computer games, Walkman, iPods and similar devices.

Introduction and Reinforcement of Mobile Phone Policy

- Teachers will discuss this policy with classes upon ratification.
- When inappropriate use is detected it will be dealt with in terms of the policy, thereby reinforcing the policy.
- The community will be made aware of the policy at the P & C meeting and in the fortnightly newsletter.
- The policy will be published on the school's Website.

Future Directions

If there is an increase in the inappropriate use of mobile phones within the school a register of student mobile phone numbers will be established to assist in dealing with student welfare related incidents that involve bullying, intimidation and/or harassment.