



Rationale:

While use of mobile phones by students can give a vital link to parents/home, the use of mobile phones and similar electronic devices in class can be disruptive to the learning environment of students and should be discouraged.

Schools and teaching staff can make reasonable rules about what students can and cannot bring to school. They can ban anything which is illegal, dangerous or is likely to cause disruption or harm to the smooth running of the school and the education of other students.

Aim:

To create a working environment in classrooms which is uninterrupted by mobile phone calls to or from students.

Implementation:

- Mobile phones should not be used in any manner or place that is disruptive to the normal routine of a school.
- Students should have their mobile phones switched off and kept in their locker during class time.
- Students should only use their mobile phones before or after school or during recess and lunch breaks.
- There are times when it is genuinely appropriate and beneficial for students to have access to a mobile phone e.g. contact of parent/guardian in case of emergency.
- This policy applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.
- It is important that students display courtesy, consideration and respect for others whenever they are using a mobile phone.
- In-phone cameras are not to be used anywhere a normal camera would be considered inappropriate, such as in change rooms or toilets.
- Appropriate action will be taken against any student who photographs or films other individuals without their consent or who uses their mobile phone to bully and/or send harassing or threatening messages to other individuals.
- Disciplinary action will be taken against any student/s who use a mobile phone to cheat in exams or assessments.
- Students should ensure that their phones are always stored in their locker or a safe and secure place.
- Mobile phones are used at their owners' risk.
- The Department of Education and Training does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will not generally pay for any loss or damage to such property.
- Students will be discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

Reference: Further information :-

AMTA (Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association) www.amta.org.au

- Bullying and Mobile Phones – Teen Tips
- Bullying and Mobile Phones – Parent’s Tips
- Acceptable use for Mobiles in Schools
- Camera phone safety and etiquette
- Driving and using mobiles

Evaluation:

This policy was originally formed, and will be reviewed in consultation with members of the wider school community as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

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| This policy was last ratified by School Council on.... | | |
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