

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Rationale:

Mobile phones are an important communication tool. Mobile phone cameras can enhance communication by making it easy for people to take and transmit images. These technologies however have the potential to be abused at school –

- disrupt the teaching and learning programs conducted by the school
- provide a vehicle for bullying
- mobile phone cameras can facilitate the invasion of privacy for both students and staff at a school.

Aims:

- To provide a fair policy that recognises the rights of families to decide whether or not the student is to have the use of a mobile phone out of school hours, other than when in the care of the school at camps, excursions, etc.
- To provide a policy that respects the school's right to manage mobile phones so that the school's teaching and learning program and duty of care are not negatively affected.
- To provide a policy which protects the rights of students and staff.

Implementation:

- Mobile phones brought to school by students are not to be turned on between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- Mobile phones brought to school are to be stored in the student's bag and they must remain out of sight.
- The school recognises that parents/students may need to communicate by mobile phone. This can be done before school commences at 9:00 a.m. and after school finishes at 3:30 p.m. Between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., the school will contact parents if and when necessary and parents can contact the office when an important message has to be passed on to their child.
- Mobile phones are brought to school at their owner's risk (students and staff). The DE&T does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and will not pay for loss and damage.
- The school will not interrupt programs to investigate damage, loss or theft of mobile phones.
- Staff are not permitted to use mobile phones for private use when they are supervising or teaching students because of their "Duty of Care" legal requirements to students.
- The use of mobile phones on camps and excursions, as with all digital devices, will be determined at each year level.
- Disciplinary action will be taken when mobile phones are used in ways that do not abide by the school policy and school values. The Principal may revoke a student's permission to bring a phone onto the school premises.
- Students are not allowed to use the camera on their mobile phone or mobile device to photograph students whilst at school or at an organised school activity (e.g. camps, excursions, sporting events, etc.). This is in recognition of the rights of students and staff members' to privacy with regard to having photos posted online.
- Parents, staff and students need to be trusted to abide by the school policy.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed in line with new legislation, regulations and best practice.

Ratified by School Council in October 2014