



MOBILE DEVICES POLICY

PURPOSE

To explain to the Plenty Parklands' school community, our policy requirements and expectations regarding the safe and appropriate use of mobile devices by students.

RATIONALE

Mobile devices (mobile phones/smart watches, etc.) are an important communication tool. Mobile device 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 device 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 device 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 devices 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.

POLICY

- Mobile devices brought to school by students are not to be turned on between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- Mobile devices brought to school are to be stored in the student's bag and they must remain out of sight.
- Students are not allowed to use the camera on their mobile device to capture video or images of people, including students, teachers and members of the school community without their permission. This is in recognition of the rights of students and staff members' to privacy with regard to having photos posted online.
- The school recognises that parents/students may need to communicate by mobile device. 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 devices are brought to school at their owner's risk (students and staff). The Department of Education and Training 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 devices.
- Staff are not permitted to use mobile devices for private use when they are supervising or teaching students because of their "Duty of Care" legal requirements to students.
- Students will not be allowed to bring their mobile devices on school camps or excursions.
- Serious consequences will be put in place when mobile devices 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 device onto the school premises. In some circumstances, students' mobile devices may be confiscated and stored securely at the school office.
- Mobile devices must not be used to send inappropriate, harassing or threatening messages or device calls, or to engage in inappropriate social media use including cyber bullying.
- Parents, staff and students need to be trusted to abide by the school policy.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Digital Technologies Policy School Policy and Advisory Guide: [Students Using Mobile Devices](#)

EVALUATION

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

Endorsed by School Council **March 2019**.