



ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

Rationale

Mobile phones and electronic devices are now a feature of modern society and most of our pupils own one. Increasing sophistication of mobile phone technology presents a number of issues for schools:

- The high value of many phones
- The integration of cameras into phones leading to the potential child protection and data protection issue, and access to the internet without staff supervision
- The potential to use the phone e.g. for texting whilst on silent mode

It is not realistic to prohibit phones and devices being brought to school, nor is it logistically possible for school staff to collect phones each morning and return them in the afternoon. It is our policy to allow pupils to have a mobile phone and electronic devices with them in school under the conditions outlined in the policy below.

Policy

If mobile phones are brought to school the rules are as follows:

- Switched off during class times: 8:40am–10:40am; 11:00am–12:40pm; 1:20pm–3:00pm
- Students cannot take or make calls / messages during class time
- Students cannot send or receive SMS messages during class time
- Mobile phones are NOT to be used for playing games, to check the time, or used to take photographs/movies (this is a breach of privacy laws)
- Students cannot access the internet during class time without the teachers express permission
- Students who are sick, are to follow the normal procedures, i.e. ask permission to go to the First Aid room where office staff will contact caregivers, NOT the STUDENT.

Students may:

- Switch the phone on during recess and lunch
- Take important messages or make important calls during recess and lunch
- Send text messages during recess or lunch

Consequences

If students fail to follow the mobile phone policy, the teacher at the time is permitted to confiscate the phone from the student. The phone may be given to the front office staff and the student will need to arrange to collect the phone at the end of the day.

If the phone is confiscated and sent to the front office more than once, caregivers will need to contact the school and arrange a time to collect the phone and the student will forfeit their right to bring their phone to school for the remainder of the term.

If the student refuses to give the phone to the staff member when asked, staff may contact the Year Level Manager who will determine if the student needs to be suspended.

Emergencies

If a student needs to contact his/her caregiver, they will be allowed to use a school phone. If caregivers need to contact children urgently they should phone the school office on 8258 5466 and a message will be relayed promptly.

The school cannot accept responsibility for damage, loss or theft of any personal property belonging to the students. Security and insurance of mobile phones and electronic devices is the responsibility of the student and caregiver. The school does not have the resources to investigate theft or damage of these devices. If items are stolen it will be the responsibility of the student to contact the police.