

## Mobile phones and electronic devices policy

### Statement of intent

Mobile phones (with cameras, internet connection and recording mechanisms) and other electronic devices are an integral part of modern living. They have become a convenient and useful mode of communication and entertainment. They serve an important role in enhancing contact with the world, providing immediate access to information, giving families a sense of security and providing individuals with hours of entertainment. Acknowledging the above, the number of mobile phones and other electronic devices in society has increased in recent years. When students bring a mobile phone or electronic device to school then they **must** comply with the school policy.

### These rules exist because:

- Undisciplined mobile phone and electronic device use during lessons disturbs the process of teaching, learning and assessment;
- Undisciplined use of devices before school and during breaks can cause physical damage (hearing loss), emotional stress, and anti-social behaviour and therefore requires supervision of use;
- Visibility of new mobile phone technology and electronic devices encourages theft from school bags, causing stress, conflict and financial hardship when items go missing.

Mobile phones are not necessary for school as students have access to a telephone in the Administration and in class via teacher permission, if they need to contact their home in case of emergency. If family members need to contact their student, they must ring the Administration and staff will see that the message is received by the individual in question.

### Policy statement

1. Any mobile phone or electronic device brought to the school is to be **turned off** and **out of sight** unless use is directed by the classroom teacher.
2. Staff members have the right to question students on the use of their device. If the teacher believes there is any concern to themselves or others, they will refer concerns to the office for clarification and action. Refusal to comply with teacher instructions will not be tolerated.
3. If students require urgent access to a phone they should report to the administration building, or classroom telephones via teacher permission to use a school phone.
4. Devices with built-in cameras are not to be used anywhere, unless instructed by teachers for learning activities. It would be considered inappropriate to use any device in change rooms or toilets.
5. Students must not take photographs or images of teachers, ancillary staff, other students or visitors to the school without their consent and knowledge.
6. Students must not make/send harassing or threatening calls/messages.

7. The playing of music, through any device e.g. iPad, phone etc. or via external speakers is not permitted on school grounds.
8. The school discourages students from bringing mobile phones and other electronic devices (except school approved BYOD iPad device) to school, and as such will not be responsible for loss or damage to mobile phones or electronic devices. No liability will be accepted by the school in the event of loss, theft or damage to any device.

**Consequences for breaching the school's mobile and electronic device policy are:**

- **1st offence** – Mobile phone or electronic device used inappropriately, or during class lessons, or any other occasion will be required to be handed in at Administration for a 3pm collection. Parents will be advised.
- **2nd offence** – Mobile phones or electronic device used inappropriately, or during class lessons, or any other occasion will be required to be handed in at Administration where the devices will be kept and must be collected by a parent. (Time out Room for reflection)
- **3rd offence** – possible suspension with parents to collect the offending device.

Refusal to comply with teacher instructions to hand the offending device in at the office may result in an automatic suspension with the parent to collect the item.

Inappropriate use of mobile phone or electronic device during breaks (e.g. viewing inappropriate imaging, playing violent games, filming other students, cyber bullying or nuisance calling/texting, etc.) will result in consequences outlined in the school's Student Code of Conduct. Victims of abusive, threatening, bullying messaging, or inappropriate video/photo imaging will be advised to make a complaint to the Queensland Police.

Any student who places an image / words on the internet which have a negative impact on the good standing of the School, its staff or students will be dealt with according to the Student Code of Conduct (Time out Room for reflection or Suspension)