

MOBILE PHONES

POLICY

Rationale:

- Mobile phones are important modern day communication tools, essential in providing a safe and effective school environment. However, they can easily be improperly used, lost or damaged and must therefore be effectively managed.

Aims:

- To utilise the benefits of mobile phones whilst managing the problems they can potentially cause.

Implementation:

Staff Protocols.

- The school will provide a mobile telephone for staff use.
- Teachers in charge of all excursions and trips involving students must ensure the school's mobile phone or similar appropriate communications devices accompany each trip.
- Staff mobile phones are not to be used for private calls during class times unless permission has been sought from the principal in exceptional circumstances.
- Staff mobiles may be used to contact families or loved ones during overnight excursions or if deemed necessary on excursions.

School Protocols.

- Students are not to use the school's mobile phones without permission directly from the Teacher in Charge.
- Staff will be kept informed of Department of Education and Early Childhood information relating to health effects of using mobile phones.
- Students are not to bring personal mobile phones to school unless permission from the principal has been successfully sought by parents who have outlined the health, safety or personal reasons that justify the student being in possession of a mobile phone.
- The school does not accept responsibility for lost or damaged student mobile phones.
- For students who have permission to have a mobile phone at school they need to ensure it is on silent and kept in their bag during the entire school day.
- Student's mobile phones must not be brought to classes, meetings, assemblies or similar organised activities.
- Students misusing personal mobile phones at school or causing a nuisance will be brought to the attention of the principal.
- The principal may revoke a student's privilege of bringing or using mobile phones whilst at school.
- Mobile phones owned by students and staff are brought to school at their own risk.
- Student mobile phones are not permitted at camp or on excursions. If children need to contact home the school mobile phone will be made available.
- Emergency contact phone numbers, including the school's mobile number, will be made available to all parents/carers prior to camp and excursions.
- Parents can elect for their child to hand their mobile phone to the office for the day if they so wish.

References: Circular 179/2005 – Use of Mobile Phones by Students

www.acma.gov.au

<http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/schadmin/environment/4-15.pdf>

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in...

July 2011