

MOBILE PHONE POLICY**RATIONALE**

Mobile phones have become an important and invaluable part of our modern lifestyle. The school understands there are times when possession of a mobile phone can provide a sense of safety and security while travelling to and from school, as well as enabling urgent calls or contact for parents. Given the primary school setting we should consider their use in this context.

There are current concerns about the use of SMS to bully others and all students should be able to come to school feeling safe and secure.

PURPOSE

The school aims to provide a happy, safe and stimulating learning environment for all students. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that mobile phone usage does not disrupt this learning environment.

To clarify the responsibilities of staff, students and parents with regard to mobile phones.

IMPLEMENTATION**Students**

- In general, students should not bring valuable items to school – as they can be easily lost or stolen, which is often distressful for a primary age child.
- If a mobile phone is required for reasons of specific safety or urgency then parents should negotiate with the Principal on how best to manage this. Usually this will involve the child delivering the phone to the office for safe keeping (under lock and key) and picking it up again in the afternoon. This will only be for urgent situations and the student will be responsible for this.
- Students bring mobile phones to school at their own risk.
- Students bringing mobile phones to school without prior arrangement and written permission will be expected to turn the phone off, leave it at the office and request that their parents contact the school to negotiate any specific urgent needs.
- It has always been the school's practice to pass on important messages to students throughout the day. This can be done by phoning the office and requesting that the message be given to the child (in most circumstances there will be no need for students to have a mobile phone).
- No mobile phones are to be taken on excursions.
- Any student found using a mobile phone in an inappropriate manner (bullying, harassing, intimidating) will have the phone confiscated and returned to the parent. The student would also be subject to the appropriate discipline code.

Staff

- Mobile phones are to be switched off / silent profile during meetings, playground duty and class sessions.
- Mobile phones should not be used during class sessions and should only be checked outside of lessons times.
- In the case of an urgent call please advise the School Registrar of your urgent circumstances.

NB Parents or students should only contact staff through the school office.

Parents

- Parents will be asked to turn phones off when volunteering in classrooms and attending assemblies and meetings so that there is no disruption to the school's programs.
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EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as required and in accordance to Department of Education policy guidelines.