



SEACLIFF SCHOOL

Barwood Avenue, Seacliff 5049

Primary 296 1960

Fax: 296 5739

Mobile Phone and Related Technologies Policy

Policy

This policy outlines the appropriate use of mobile phones and related technologies on our school site.

Rationale

At our school we value the usefulness of mobile phones and related technologies. We also recognise that some parents/guardians request that their child/ren bring a mobile phone to school for before-school and after-school safety/security reasons.

Cyber safety concerns relating to inappropriate use of mobile phones and the damage they can cause require us to take effective action to manage the use of mobile phones in our school.

Our core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an environment free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions.

In general, students should not bring valuable items to school, as they can be easily lost or stolen, which is often distressful for any primary age child.

The school is prepared to allow mobile phones on the premises but only within the guidelines of the policy as stated below.

Guidelines

- Students are advised that if they bring a mobile phone or related technology onto the school grounds during the school day, they **MUST** keep the phone in their own school bag and it **MUST** be turned off. That includes at all times during camps and excursions. It is not to be accessed or turned on at any time during the school day, including before school, recess and lunch breaks.
- Students remain responsible for all of their personal property whilst at school. When students enter the school grounds the school takes no responsibility for mobile phones. Mobile phones or related technologies are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.
- There are no acceptable reasons why a student needs to have in their possession or to use a mobile phone or related technology during the school day.
- Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.

Inappropriate Use

Generally, a mobile phone or related technology will be used inappropriately if it:

- Disrupts or, is likely to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school; or
- Threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or well being of any person; or
- Is in breach of any law; or
- Is in breach of the school guidelines as outlined.

Inappropriate use of mobile phones or related technologies will include students using them to bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the phone or related technology. This type of misuse will be dealt with under the Student Behaviour Policy.

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. The school may consider it appropriate to involve the police.

Consequences for inappropriate use

In line with our Student Behaviour Management Policy, students who fail to follow these guidelines, the following sanctions may be applied:

- Confiscation of the mobile phone (handed back to student or parent at the end of the day).
- An office time-out or in-school suspension.
- Communication with parents/guardians regarding mobile phone or related technologies use at school.
- A student being banned from bringing a mobile phone or related technologies onto the school grounds.
- Any combination of the above deemed appropriate by school leadership.

Related Technology

The procedures applying to the inappropriate use and security of mobile phones, apply equally to the inappropriate use of portable computer games, iPods and any similar devices. Games, songs, or videos that are rated above a "G" rating are not appropriate and are not to be brought into the school.

Exemptions

Exemptions of this policy can only be approved by the Principal and then only in exceptional circumstances.