

MOBILE PHONES, PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND OTHER PERSONAL ITEMS POLICY

Rationale:

- * Mobile phones and other electronic devices are important modern day tools. However, their use in class and the school environment can be disruptive to the learning environment of students and should be discouraged. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property. Staff and students should be discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school. (Circular 038/2005). This includes “collectables”.

Aims:

- To utilise the benefits of technological devices (eg.mobile phones) as a communication tool for staff on excursions whilst ensuring they and other electronic devices do not disrupt the learning environment of students.

Implementation:

For students:

- Students are not to bring personal mobile phones or other electronic devices to school. This policy will be regularly communicated to parents and in the event of it occurring, the device will be confiscated and parents will be informed. Confiscated mobile phones will be stored securely and must be collected by the student’s parents.
- If parents believe they have a sound reason for their child to carry a mobile phone to school then that needs to be discussed with the principal and an arrangement where the student hands the phone daily to the school office on arrival at school and collects at the end of the school day will be implemented.
- The school does not accept responsibility for lost or damaged student mobile phones or other electronic devices or personal items including collectables.

For staff:

- It is acknowledged that staff may have their own personal mobile phones with them. In the interests of promoting a sound learning environment staff are requested not to make or receive phone calls or send/receive text messages on their personal phone during instruction time. Staff have been made aware of the DEECD’s policy on personal property.
- Staff on excursions will have at least one mobile phone with them for contact with the school and with their families in the event of an overnight camp. Staff mobile phone nos. will be left at the office when staff attend an excursion.
- Staff will be kept informed of DEECD information relating to health effects of using mobile phones.

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...

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