



Student Use of Mobile Phone Policy

INTRODUCTION

As a communication device mobile phones, when used appropriately, offer students and their parents many advantages in terms of ease of communication and a sense of personal safety. However, mobile phones have the capacity to have a negative impact on the learning environment and the safety and well being of students.

This policy establishes guidelines for the use of student mobile phones within the school environment and sets out the responsibility of staff, parents and students.

INAPPROPRIATE USE

The use of mobile phones in schools should not automatically be of concern. It is only if a mobile phone is used inappropriately that action will be necessary.

A mobile phone is 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.

Inappropriate use of mobile phones includes students using them to bully, intimidate or harass other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the phone. This type of misuse will be dealt with under the Student Welfare and Discipline Policy and if necessary the law.

GUIDELINES FOR USE

1. Once at school the phones will be stored in the student's bag and turned off while students are in class and in the playground or at school related functions (excursions etc.). Phones that ring or beep during the school day disrupt the learning environment. In the first instance the student will be warned and asked to turn the phone off. If this occurs more than once the incident will be reported to the principal. The phone will be confiscated, turned off and kept in a secure storeroom. Parents will be contacted and will need to collect the phone from school.
2. Students must not lend a phone to another student for use as a phone, for text messaging or for use as a camera or video recording device. The student who owns the phone will be held responsible for its use.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR MOBILE PHONES

Students bring mobile phones to school at their own risk – the school and school staff members will not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to mobile phones or for investigating loss or damage.

RELATED TECHNOLOGY

The procedures applying to the inappropriate use and security of mobile phones, apply equally to the inappropriate use of the internet, portable computer games, ipods and similar devices.

REINFORCEMENT OF POLICY

- Teachers will discuss this policy with students in their class.
- When inappropriate use is detected it will be dealt with in terms of this policy, thereby reinforcing the policy.
- The community will be made aware of the policy in the newsletter and on the school website.