

Mobile phones and electronic devices policy

Statement of intent

Mobile phones (with cameras, internet connection and recording mechanisms) and other electronic devices are an integral part of modern living. They have become a convenient and useful mode of communication and entertainment. They serve an important role in enhancing contact with the world, providing immediate access to information, giving families a sense of security and providing individuals with hours of entertainment. Acknowledging the above, the number of mobile phones and other electronic devices in society has increased in recent years. If students bring a mobile phone or electronic device to school then they **must** comply with the school policy.

These rules exist because:

- Undisciplined mobile phone and electronic device use during lessons disturbs the process of teaching, learning and assessment;
- Visibility of new mobile phone technology and electronic devices encourages theft from school bags, causing stress, conflict and financial hardship when items go missing.

Mobile phones are not necessary for school as students have access to a telephone in the Administration and in classrooms in case of an emergency. If family members need to contact their student, they must ring the Administration and staff will ensure that the message is received by the individual in question.

Policy statement

1. Any mobile phone or electronic device brought to the school must be handed into the office for safe keeping. At no time are students permitted to have mobile devices on their person or in their school bags. No liability will be accepted by the school in the event of loss, theft or damage to any device that is not handed into the office as required.
2. Devices with built-in cameras are not to be used anywhere, unless instructed by teachers for learning activities. It would be considered inappropriate to use any device in change rooms or toilets.
3. Students must not take photographs or images of teachers, ancillary staff, other students or visitors to the school without their consent and knowledge.
4. Students must not make/send harassing or threatening calls/messages.
5. The playing of music, through any device e.g. iPad, phone etc. or via external speakers is not permitted on school grounds.
6. Devices such as Fitbits and devices that track movement and heart rates are allowed.
7. Devices such as Smart watches that have multi-functions that include the phone component are permitted as long as they are not used as a phone device. Students who use their smart watches as phones during school hours will be in breach of this mobile phone and device policy. We encourage students with smart watches to disable the phone component during school hours to prevent any misuse of the device.

Consequences for breaching the school's mobile and electronic device policy

Inappropriate use of mobile phone or electronic device during breaks (e.g. viewing inappropriate imaging, playing violent games, filming other students, cyber bullying or nuisance calling/texting, etc.) will result in consequences outlined in the school's responsible behaviour plan. Victims of abusive,

threatening, bullying messaging, or inappropriate video/photo imaging will be advised to make a complaint to the Queensland Police.

Any student who places an image / words on the internet which have a negative impact on the good standing of the School, its staff or students will be dealt with according to the school's responsible behaviour plan.