

Gymea Bay Public School

Acceptable Use of Mobile Phone / Similar Device Guidelines¹



Description

Mobile phones/similar devices have become an important and invaluable part of our modern lifestyle. There are times when possession of a mobile phone/similar device can provide a sense of safety and security while travelling to and from school.

Mobile phones/similar devices are unnecessary during school hours as a method of communicating with students given the primary school setting. There are also concerns about the misuse of mobile phones/similar devices in a school environment e.g. bullying, interruptions in class, distraction, inappropriate photography.

Aims

- 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/similar device usage does not disrupt the learning environment. The policy seeks to clarify the responsibilities of staff and students with regard to mobile phones/similar devices.

Implementation

- In general, students should not bring valuable items to school as they can be easily lost or stolen, which is often distressing for a child. Any person who brings property onto the school site do so at their own risk.
- If a mobile phone or similar devices, for example Apple/android watches with communication capacity are required at school for the reasons of safety for travelling to and from school, it is the responsibility of the student to have the device switched off and stored away in their school bag (in the case of smart watches they can be worn but must be turned off) from the time they enter the school grounds until the time they leave school grounds.
- It is the responsibility of all staff and parents to comply with the appropriate use of mobile phones guidelines as outlined in this document and Department of Education (DoE) policy.
- Parents and students are advised that in bringing mobile phones/similar devices to school, they are doing so at their own risk and must comply with this policy and all Child Protection regulations.
- Any important messages can be conveyed to students by phoning or emailing the school office. The message will be relayed to the student. Should students need to make contact with anyone during the school day, they can speak to their teacher or go to the office to request that a phone call be placed on their behalf.
- No mobile phones/similar devices are to be taken on excursions.
- All students found to be using the mobile phone/similar devices in an inappropriate manner eg. bullying, inappropriate photography or texts, will have the device confiscated and returned to the parent. Consequences may result if there is inappropriate use of mobile phones/similar devices.
- These procedures apply equally to the inappropriate use of tablets, portable computer games, iPods and similar devices, for example, Apple/android watches with communication capacity.

Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed at least every 5 years or as deemed necessary by the school community.

Related Documents

- Legal Issues Bulletin No 35 The use of mobile phones, portable computer games, recording devices and cameras in schools and TAFE NSW institutes
- Legal Issues Bulletin No 8 Claims for loss of or damage to personal property and use of private motor vehicles by staff, parents and students
- Student Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Guidelines.

¹ Updated February 2018