

STUDENT MOBILE PHONE & TECHNOLOGIES POLICY

You may be aware that the NSW Government announced reforms regarding the use of mobile devices during school hours. You are being provided a copy of our current relevant policy that will continue to be followed until guidance / support is provided during 2019 to implement reforms.

Should you wish your child to have a mobile device at school, please send parent consent to the classroom teacher.

Purpose

This statement has been developed to ensure that there is a planned and agreed approach to students bringing mobile telephones to school at Newbridge Heights Public School. This policy aims to establish guidelines for the use of student mobile phones within the school environment and aims to set out the responsibility of staff, parents and students.

Rationale

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 if used inappropriately.

Key Policy Statements

What is 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. Generally, a mobile phone will be used inappropriately if it:

- Disrupts or is likely to disrupt the learning environment or interferes 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 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. This type of misuse will be dealt with under the Student Welfare and Discipline Policy.

Guidelines for Use.

1. Students should only have a mobile phone at school with the consent of their parent. Phones should not be turned on until a student leaves the school site. **Once at school the phones should be turned off** while students are in class or on the playground and stored inside the student's school bag. Phones that ring or beep during the school day disrupt the learning environment. If a mobile phone is used inappropriately the phone will be given to the Principal and parents 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 use as a camera or video recording device. The student who owns the phone will be held responsible for its use.
3. 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 (see School Valuables Policy)
4. Taking photographs or videos while at school or engaged in school related activities by students may only occur if there is a sound reason for the photography and permission of staff/ student/ parent/ carer will be required.

Related Technology

The procedures applying to the inappropriate use and security of mobile phones, apply equally to the inappropriate use of portable computer games, walkman, ipods and similar devices. Current school policy and practice is that these types of equipment are not brought to school (see School Valuables Policy)

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's strategic plan for policy review.

Related Documents and References

- DET and School Student Welfare and Student Discipline Policies
- DET Legal Issues Bulletin #35 (Feb 2005)