

MOBILE PHONES

Rationale

- Mobile phones are important modern day communication tools, essential in providing a safe and effective school environment. However, they can easily be improperly used, lost or damaged and must therefore be effectively managed.
- Schools that allow the use of mobile phones must clearly and regularly advise students and parents/guardians of their expectations and policy requirements, including use during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.
- Mobile phone cameras (still and video) must not be used in banned spaces for example changing rooms, toilets, gyms and swimming pools, to film people and their activities without their knowledge or permission.
- Mobiles phones must not be used to send harassing or threatening messages.
- Newport Gardens Primary School recognises that student access to a mobile phone is viewed as important by many of our families. The school also recognises that their use, for travel, re-confirming after school arrangements, etc is again viewed as important by many families.
- While the school does not support the banning of new technologies which are commonly supported in the community, students and families are still urged to be cautious about bringing mobile phones to school and students do so at their own risk.
- As with all privileges there is responsibility and if students do bring mobile phones to school, they must be managed according to this policy and our school expectations or they will have the privilege removed.

Purpose

- * To utilise the benefits of mobile phones whilst managing the problems they can potentially cause.
- * To ensure Newport Gardens Primary School provides clear policy advice on the use of mobile phones.
- * To ensure the school complies with DET policy and guidelines.

Implementation

- As a general rule, mobile phone should only be used by students in cases of genuine need and only outside of normal school hours
- Mobile phones are brought to and kept at school entirely at their owner's risk. The school cannot accept any responsibility for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) resulting from mobile phone use.
- Student's mobile phones must not be brought to classes, meetings, assemblies or similar organised activities and should not be seen at non-class times such as recess or lunch breaks. They should be stored in lockers or school bags and turned off.
- Mobile phones and students using them must not cause disruptions to classes or individuals, and must not cause a nuisance to the smooth running of the school.
- Students must display courtesy, consideration and respect for others when using a mobile phone.
- The school reserves the right to prohibit students from bringing mobile phones (especially those that can take photos or video) into certain spaces or during certain activities e.g. science rooms, exam rooms, technology rooms, physical education classes, change rooms etc.
- Students misusing personal mobile phones at school or causing a nuisance will be brought to the attention of the Principal and the device may be confiscated until such time as a parent or other related adult collects the phone from the Principal.
- The Principal may revoke a student's privilege of bringing or using mobile phones whilst at school.
- Mobile phones owned by students and staff are brought to school at their own risk. The school's insurance cover will not compensate damaged, lost or stolen personal mobile phones.
- Parents may wish to ensure phones as personal property.
- Please refer also to the school's Bullying & Harassment Policy and the Photographing & Filming Students Policy and the Student Engagement Policy.

Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET update late September 2013).

This update was ratified by School Council on August 16th 2016

Reference:

www.education.vic.gov.au/principals/spag/safety/pages/mobilephones.sapx

