



Watsonia Heights Primary School

Mobile Phone Policy

Rationale:

Mobile phones are an important communication tool. Mobile phone cameras can enhance communication by making it easy for people to take and transmit images. These technologies however have the potential to be improperly used lost or damaged and therefore must be effectively managed.

Aims:

- To provide a policy that respects the school's right to manage mobile phones so that the school's teaching and learning program and duty of care are not negatively affected.

Implementation:

- Mobile phones are not to be brought to school or any other school activity unless permission from the principal has been sought by the parent in writing.
- Mobile phones brought to school are to be handed to the grade teacher, who will lock them away till the end of school. Student's mobile phones are not to be turned on between 9am and 3.30pm or used in the school grounds.
- The school recognises that parents/students may need to communicate by mobile phone. This can be done before school commences at 9am and after school finishes at 3.30pm but not in the school grounds. Between 9am and 3.30pm the school will contact parents if, and when, necessary and parents can contact the office when an important message has to be passed on to their child.
- It is important that students display respect for others when they use a mobile phone.
- Mobile phones, under no circumstances are to be taken by students to camps, sleepovers, excursions, extra curricular school activities, school sporting events etc. Staff carry school mobile phones for all essential contact with the school, parents or emergency services.
- Mobile phones are brought to school at their owner's risk (students and staff). The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and will not pay for loss and damage.
- The school will not interrupt programs to investigate damage, loss or theft of mobile phones.
- Staff are not advised to use mobile phones for **private use** (unless in case of an emergency) when they are supervising or teaching students because of their "Duty of Care" legal requirements to students.
- Disciplinary action will be taken when mobile phones are used in ways that do not abide by the school policy and school values. The Principal may revoke a student's permission to bring a phone onto the school premises.
- Students who bring a mobile phone to school without prior approval will have their mobile phones stored in the office until collected by a parent/guardian
- Parents, staff and students need to be trusted to abide by the school policy.