



TELOPEA PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Education
Public Schools

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Student Mobile Phone and Related Technologies Policy

Introduction

There is a range of technology available today including mobile telephones, pagers, digital cameras and MP3 players, iPods, personal digital assistants and other similar devices. All of these have the potential to be incorporated appropriately into lessons. When these technologies are misused by students they can be very disruptive to teaching and learning and in some cases cause harm.

Telopea Public School acknowledges that students from time to time need to have a mobile phone at school for reasons relating to their safety in travelling to and from school. At present our policy is that all students' mobile devices/phones are required to be checked in at the office on arrival to school and picked up by the student at the end of the school day. Parents must provide a permission note authorising the students personal mobile phone and provide their phone number to the school for the students mobile phone register.

Where students bring a mobile phone, portable computer game, MP3 player/ iPod, camera and similar devices to school:

Student responsibilities:

- **The student must take full responsibility for these devices. The school or staff will not be responsible for their loss, theft or damage. Students who bring them to school do so at their own risk.**
- **Students must not use mobile telephones or other devices to threaten, bully, cyber bullying, intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the telephone or for any illegal activity.**
- **Once at school the phones are turned off and are checked in at the office while students are in class or on the playground.**

Use of mobile phones or other electronic devices:

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. Mobile Phones will not be banned at school, however they will not be allowed on overnight excursions or available for access by the student during school hours. If phones are taken to overnight excursions the executive member of staff will confiscate the phone and keep in a secure and safe place. The parent will collect the phone once the child has returned to school. If this occurs more than once the phone will be given to the Principal and parents will need to collect the phone from school. The phone will be turned off and kept in a secure storeroom.

Students must not lend a phone to another student for use as a phone, for text messaging or for use as a camera or video recording device. The student who owns the phone will be held responsible for its use. A register of student mobile phone numbers is established to assist in dealing with student welfare related incidents that involve bullying, intimidation and/or harassment.



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Improper use of mobile phones or other electronic devices:

- Appropriate action as determined by the school Discipline Policy.
- The student being required to hand in their mobile phone or other electronic device at the beginning of the school day for collection when the student goes home. The device is to be locked in a secure storeroom.
- Confiscation of the mobile phone or other electronic device until such time as their parent or caregiver is able to attend school to collect the device. The device is to be locked in a secure storeroom.
- Criminal and civil action may take place (The Commonwealth Criminal Code and The NSW Crimes Act 1900)

Emergency Contact

- If a parent or caregiver needs to contact a student as a result of an emergency, they are required to call the school office and a message will be given to the student.
- If a student needs to make emergency contact with anyone they can do so through the school office.

References:

Legal Issues Bulletin No 34- Defamation

Legal Issues Bulletin No 44- Apprehended Personal Violence Order

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 42- Legal Issues arising for the staff subject to cyber bullying and related behaviour