

PICNIC POINT PUBLIC SCHOOL

MOBILE PHONE POLICY



“Strive to Excel”

Prince Street, Picnic Point, 2213

Ph: 9773 7817 Fax: 9792 3913

Website: www.picnicpt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Email: picnicpt-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Rationale:

Mobile phones have become an important and invaluable part of our modern lifestyle. At Picnic Point Public School we recognise that many students and their families own a mobile phone. We also recognise that some parents/guardians request that their child/ren bring a mobile phone to school for before and after school safety/security reasons.

Our core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an environment, free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions. Therefore the school strongly discourages the bringing of mobile phones to school by students. The school is prepared to allow mobile phones on the premises but only within the parameters of the policy as stated below.

Aims:

To inform all members of our school community about the appropriate use of mobile phones at our school. To outline the procedures and processes of this policy.

Guidelines:Staff

- During work hours, while on playground duty and during meetings, mobile phones will be switched off or put on 'silent' or 'discreet' mode.
- Except in urgent or exceptional situations, mobile phone use is not permitted during work hours, while on playground duty and during meetings.
- Parent or students should contact staff through the school office - teachers are encouraged not to give out their mobile phone numbers.

Students

- In general, students should not bring valuable items to school - as they can be easily lost or stolen, which is often distressing for students.
- There are no reasons why a student needs to have in their possession or use a mobile phone during the school day. Parents are reminded that in case of emergency the school office still remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any way.
- If a mobile phone is required for reasons of specific safety or urgency then parents should fill in the consent form and return it to the Principal before their child/ren brings a mobile phone to school. The reason for bringing mobile phone to school will need to be approved by the Principal. The child will deliver the clearly labelled phone to the office for safe keeping (under lock and key) and pick it up again in the afternoon. This will only be for urgent situations and the student will be responsible for this.
- Students remain responsible for all their personal effects that are not handed into the office. When students enter the school grounds the school takes no responsibility for mobile phones. Mobile phones are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.

- Student bringing mobile phones to school without prior arrangement and written permission will be expected to turn the phone off, leave it at the office and request that their parents contact the school to negotiate any specific urgent need.
- No mobile phones are to be taken on excursions.

Parents

- Parents will be asked to switched off or put on 'silent' or 'discreet' mode when volunteering in classrooms and attending assemblies and meetings so that there is no disruption to the school's programs.

Sanctions:

In line with our Discipline Policy, students who fail to follow these guidelines, the following sanctions may be applied:

- Confiscation of the mobile phone (handed back to the student or parent at the end of the day).
- Communication with parent/guardians regarding mobile phone use at school.

Inappropriate use:

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

- Disrupts or is likely to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school.
- Is used for bullying, harassing or intimidating other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the phone. The student will have the phone confiscated and will need to be collected from the office by a parent. The student would also be subject to the appropriate discipline code.

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. **The school may consider it appropriate to involve the police.**

Related Technology:

The procedures applying to the inappropriate use and security of mobile phones, apply equally to the inappropriate use and security of portable computer games, iPods and similar devices.

Exemptions:

Exemptions of this policy can only be approved by the Principal and then only in exceptional circumstances.



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MOBILE PHONE CONSENT FORM

I give my child permission to bring a mobile phone to school. I have read and understood the school policy on mobile phones for students use and the consequences if the policy is breached.

Parent/Guardian (print): _____

Parent/Guardian (sign): _____

Date: _____

Student Name (print): _____

Class: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Reasons for your child having a mobile phone at school:

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Principal