

PICNIC POINT PUBLIC SCHOOL

MOBILE PHONE AND SMART DEVICES POLICY



“Strive to Excel”

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Rationale:

Mobile phone and smart devices 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 and smart devices. We also recognise that some parents/guardians request that their child/ren bring a mobile phone and/or smart devices 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 and smart devices to school by students. The school is prepared to allow mobile phone and smart devices 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 phone and smart devices 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 phone and smart devices will be switched off or put on 'silent' or 'discreet' mode.
- Except in urgent or exceptional situations, mobile phone and smart devices 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 and smart devices 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 and smart devices 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 and/or smart device 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 and/or smart device to school. The reason for bringing mobile phone and/or smart device to school will need to be approved by the Principal. The child will deliver the clearly labelled phone and/or smart device 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 and smart devices. Mobile phones and smart devices are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones and smart devices.

- Student bringing mobile phones and smart devices to school without prior arrangement and written permission will be expected to turn the phone and/or smart device off, leave it at the office and request that their parents contact the school to negotiate any specific urgent need.
- No mobile phones and smart devices 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 and smart devices (handed back to the student or parent at the end of the day).
- Communication with parent/carer regarding mobile phone and smart devices use at school.

Inappropriate use:

Generally, a mobile phone and smart devices 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 and/or smart device 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 and smart devices 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 and smart devices, 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 AND SMART DEVICES CONSENT FORM

I give my child permission to bring a mobile phone and/or smart device to school. I have read and understood the school policy on mobile phone and smart devices 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 and/or smart device at school:

Principal Approved: _____ Date: _____