

Mornington Primary School



Mobile Phone & Digital Devices Policy

Purpose

This policy outlines the appropriate use of mobile phones and other similar or related technology on our school site, school camps, excursions and any other school-associated events.

Whilst recognising the increased use of mobile phones in our community and acknowledge the increasing circumstances where parents provide mobile phones to their children for reasons of security, the disruptive influence and potential misuse of mobile phones and similar technologies needs to be minimised.

Our core purpose of teaching and learning is better facilitated in an environment free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions. To this end, MPS strongly discourages students bringing mobile phones to school. However, the school will allow students to possess mobile phones on the premises only, within the parameters of the policy as stated below.

Guidelines

Staff

- During teaching time, while on playground duty and during meetings, mobile phones will be switched off or put on 'silent' mode unless the Principal has sanctioned otherwise.
- Except in urgent or exceptional situations, mobile phone use is not permitted during teaching time, while on playground duty and during meetings.
- A mobile phone may be utilised in the playground to communicate with the office during emergency situations.

- Mobile phones may be used as a teaching tool e.g timer, camera, calculator or video.

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 cases of emergency, the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.
- Students remain responsible for all of their personal effects whilst at school. As the school takes no responsibility for mobile phones or any other similar/related device, they are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones or other similar/related devices.
- As with all other objects students bring to school, mobile phones should be clearly marked with the student's name.
- Students are advised that if they bring a mobile phone to school, it must be switched off before entering the grounds and remain switched off for the duration of the day. Students are to keep their mobile phones in their bags at all times during the school day.
- Students must seek the permission of the Principal before using a mobile phone on the school premises.
- Students are not permitted to take mobile phones on camps (even for the primary use as a camera), excursions or other school functions.

Related Technology

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

Implementation

- Policy is to be endorsed by School Council following input from teachers and parents.
- Policy will be communicated via the school newsletter.
- Policy is to be posted on the school website.
- The principal and staff are responsible for implementation of this policy.

Consequences

In line with our Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy, students who don't follow these guidelines may have the following consequences applied:

- Confiscation of the mobile phone which is handed to the office by the relevant member of staff.

- At the office, the phone will be placed in an envelope, which is sealed, clearly named and stored in the school office. The office will contact the parent/guardian and advise that they may collect the phone from the office.
- A time-out or in school suspension.
- Communication with parents/guardians regarding mobile phone use at school.
- A student being banned from bringing a mobile phone onto the school grounds.

Evaluation

This procedure will be reviewed as part of the school's regular review cycle.

Review date: **2016**