



KIRRAWEE PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Mobile Phone Policy

As a communication device, mobile phones, when used appropriately offer students and their parents many advantages in terms of ease of communication and a sense of personal safety. However, mobile phones have the capacity to have a negative impact on the learning environment and the safety and well being of students. The use of mobile phones in schools should not automatically be of concern. It is only if a mobile phone is used inappropriately that action will be necessary.

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, or
- threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or well being of any person, or
- is in breach of any law.

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. This type of misuse will be dealt with under the Student Welfare and Discipline Policy.

Guidelines

Once at school the student's phone will be turned off. They may only be switched on at dismissal. Phones will not be carried on the student during the day. Students will be required to *surrender* their mobile phones to the office every morning and collect it at dismissal.

They will be kept in a location in the administration office with a sign-in/sign-out register. Phones that ring or beep during the school day disrupt the learning environment. In the first instance the student will be warned and asked to turn the phone off. 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.

2. 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.

Responsibility for Mobile Phones

Students bring mobile phones to school at their own risk – the school and school staff members will not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to mobile phones or for investigating loss or damage.

Related Technology

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

Introduction and Reinforcement of Mobile Phone Policy

- Teachers will discuss this policy with classes upon ratification.
- When inappropriate use is detected it will be dealt with in terms of the policy, thereby reinforcing the policy.
- The community will be made aware of the policy in the Newsletter.
- The policy will be published in the handbook given to all new enrolments.

Future Directions

If there is an increase in the inappropriate use of mobile phones within the school the following procedures may be adopted:

- a register of student mobile phone numbers will be established to assist in dealing with student welfare related incidents that involve bullying, intimidation and/or harassment;

Respect

Responsibility

Cooperation

Fair Go

Excellence