

Park Lake State School

Acceptable Use of Mobile Telephones Policy

Schools can make reasonable rules about what students can and cannot bring to school. They can ban anything which is illegal, dangerous or is likely to cause disruption or harm to the smooth running of the school and the education of other students.

The use of mobile phones, pagers, portable CD and MP3 players, Personal Digital Assistants and similar electronic devices in class is disruptive to the learning environment of other students. It is acknowledged that in some circumstances, mobile phones, and those with the capacity to record digital images, can be appropriately incorporated into the learning program.

At Park Lake State School the guidelines for the appropriate use of mobile phones includes the following points:

- **If students wish to bring a mobile phone to school it must be clearly named and left at the office to be picked up after school.**
- Students do not need to have access to a mobile phone during school times. The office staff contact parents when children are sick or injured, or if they haven't been collected after school.
- There are sometimes when it is genuinely appropriate and beneficial for students to have access to a mobile phone. Students may, for example, need to contact parents on the way home, or to confirm or change a collection time after school.
- The policy also applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.
- It is important that students display courtesy, consideration and respect for others whenever they are using a mobile phone.
- Mobile phones should not be used in any manner or place that is disruptive to the normal routine of the school.
- In-phone cameras are not to be used anywhere a normal camera would be considered inappropriate, such as in change rooms or toilets.
- It is recommended by the Education Department that disciplinary action be taken against any student who photographs or films other individuals without their consent or who sends harassing or threatening messages.
- During school hours parents are welcome to phone the office and messages from parents will be passed on to the students.
- If a student has a mobile phone at school, in class or in the playground, the teacher will have the student immediately deliver it to the office. There it will be kept in the secure area until after school. It is the student's responsibility to collect the phone and it will only be returned after 3pm.
- Mobile phones are used at their owners' risk. No liability will be accepted by the school in the event of the loss, theft or damage of any device.

Policy Dated: 30 October, 2007