

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

PURPOSE

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

POLICY

At Indie School we recognise that many students and their families own a mobile phone. We also recognise that some parents/guardians request that the student brings 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 students bringing mobile phones to school. The school is prepared to allow mobile phones on the premises but 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' or 'discreet' mode.
- Except in urgent or exceptional situations, mobile phone use is not permitted during teaching time, while on playground duty and during meetings.

Students

- In general, students should not bring valuable items to school, as they can be easily lost or stolen, which is often distressful for a student.
- Students remain responsible for all of their personal effects whilst at school. 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. There are no reasons why a student needs to have in their possession, or needs to use a mobile phone during the school day whilst on school grounds.
- 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 are advised that if they bring a mobile phone onto the school grounds during the school day, that they must place the phone into the 'phone box' at the start of each class and collect it at the end of the session
- If students do bring their mobile phone to school it should be clearly marked with their name.

Sanctions

In line with the school's *Behaviour Support & Management Policy*, for students who fail to follow these guidelines, the following sanctions may be applied:

- Confiscation of the mobile phone (handed back to student or parent at the end of the day).
- Communication with parents/guardians regarding mobile phone use at school.
- A student being banned from bringing a mobile phone onto the school grounds.

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; 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 *Behaviour Support & Management Policy*.

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 of portable computer games, iPod's and similar devices.

Exemptions

The Principal, and then only in exceptional circumstances, can only approve exemptions of this policy.