



Mobile Phones in School

Policy

Why does RBPS need a mobile phone policy?

Mobile phones and other electronic devices are powerful tools and with continued enhancements to technology, their capabilities extend far beyond making phone calls. For example, they may be used to text or email, take photographs, or to access the Internet and social networking applications.

The School recognises that some parents/caregivers may provide children with a phone.

This policy is intended to provide parents and caregivers with **guidelines on how and when** mobile phones may be brought into, and used at, the School. It also aims to define inappropriate use of mobile phones and how the School will manage this should it occur.

How will the policy help the School and parents?

This policy aims to provide:

- guidelines for the use and management of mobile phones at School
- a framework for the School and parents to educate children about appropriate mobile phone use.
- protection for students and the School in the event of a lost or stolen phone.

What is the current policy?

Children are not allowed to use a mobile phone at School.

In allowing a child to bring a mobile phone to School, parents/caregivers are acknowledging their understanding and the application of this policy and its guidelines.

Students and parents should also be aware that students bringing mobile phones to the School do so at their own risk. The School will not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to mobile phones.

What are the guidelines for mobile phone use within the School?

- Mobile phones remain the sole responsibility of the student owner and should be kept secure at all times.

- Mobile phones should be kept inside a School bag at all times.
- Mobile phones are to be switched off while they are at School.
- No phone calls or texts (inbound or outbound) are permitted at School.
- Students are not permitted to use any photographic function, gaming, Internet or texting function at School.
- Any calls to students (including in matters of emergency) must be made through the School office and not directly to a student's mobile phone.
- Mobile phones are not permitted on excursions unless instructed by the excursion organiser.



What constitutes 'inappropriate use' of a mobile phone at School?

Inappropriate use of a mobile phone encompasses any occasion when a student (or students) uses a phone to bully, intimidate or otherwise harass another student or staff member at School. This includes through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on a phone. There are laws covering threatening and bullying behaviours via mobile phone use which may apply.

Students should never use their mobile phones to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the School.

What is the School's procedure if this policy is breached?

Breaches of this policy will result in students not being permitted to have a mobile phone at School. Further, any inappropriate use could contravene the law and result in referring the matter to police.



How will this policy be communicated to the School Community?

Students will be informed and reminded regularly about this policy.

Parents and students will also be advised of this policy through the School newsletter, including its availability for reference on the School's website and in the School office.

Parents are asked to read the policy and discuss it with their children at regular intervals.

Further information

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