



OATLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL

MOBILE DEVICES POLICY

Last Updated August 2014

Mobile Devices

This document defines the policy for school students of the NSW Department of Education and Communities for the appropriate and acceptable use of mobile devices within the Oatley Public School environment and when on school excursions.

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 if they are not managed appropriately.

This policy aims to establish guidelines for the use of student mobile phones within the school environment and aims to set out the responsibility of staff, parents and students.

What Is Inappropriate Use?

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 OPS Student Welfare / Discipline Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy.

Guidelines for Use

1. Once at school the phones should be turned off while students are in class or on the playground. Phones that ring or beep during the school day disrupt the learning environment. In the first instance the student will be warned, asked to turn the phone off and their name will be recorded on the welfare program.

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.

3. Any mobile devices that are used on excursions will be used in a way that does not breach inappropriate use, as outlined above. The devices may be used to record events on the excursion,

however, students are not permitted to take photographs of other students without their permission. At no time are photographs taken of other students permitted to be uploaded onto the internet, including social media applications and websites. These photographs are for personal record and memories of the excursion only.

During the excursion, students will not be permitted to communicate with their peers and/or with other friends or family members using their mobile device. Any communication needed will be through the excursion coordinator, as usual.

The procedures applying to the inappropriate use and security of mobile phones, apply equally to the inappropriate use of all other portable computer games, iPads, iPods and similar devices. The use of these devices on excursions however, is considered unnecessary and lends themselves more to being lost, misplaced and stolen.

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 all other portable computer games, iPads, iPods and similar devices.

The school strongly encourages parents not to allow these items to be brought to school.

Introduction and Reinforcement of Mobile Phone Policy

- ✓ Teachers will discuss this policy with their class.
- ✓ 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 school newsletter and will be available on the school website.
- ✓ The policy will be published in the handbook given to all new enrolments.

Mrs Deborah Hunter
Principal