

# Sylvania Heights Public School

## Student Mobile Phone Policy

### ***Introduction***

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.

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 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.

### ***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. 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 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 week newsletter, Chalkboard.
- 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 a register of student mobile phone numbers may be established to assist in dealing with student welfare related incidents that involve bullying, intimidation and/or harassment.

Ratified by Staff

Ratified by the P&C

Ratified by School Council

Dennis Burke  
Principal