



# PARKHURST STATE SCHOOL

## Student Use and Possession of Mobile Telephones and Similar Electronic Devices



### RATIONALE

The use of mobile phones, pagers, portable CD and MP3 players, Personal Digital Assistants and similar electronic devices in class and at school is disruptive to the learning environment of all students and should be discouraged. However, in special circumstances students should negotiate arrangements with their teachers and/or school administration for their use where appropriate.

### OUTCOMES EXPECTED

- Students are deterred from bringing electronic devices to school, which have the potential to detract from the learning occurring in classrooms.
- Where it is appropriate for these items to be at school on particular occasions, students have been made aware of their responsibilities regarding the security, storage and use of these items.
- Mobile telephones and other electronic equipment used without prior negotiation is at their owners' risk. No liability will be accepted by the school in the event of loss, theft or damage, unless it can be established that the loss, theft or damage resulted from the department's negligence.

### PROCEDURE

1. Students should be discouraged from bringing items such as mobile phones, pagers, portable CD and MP3 players, personal digital assistants and similar electronic devices to school, on excursion or on camp or during similar extra curricular activities.
2. Students wishing to use these devices in special circumstances should negotiate arrangements with the Principal. This includes informing the principal that he/she has the device in his/her possession and how it is intended that the item will be kept secure during the school day.
3. Students whose parents wish them to bring a mobile phone to school to be used to contact parents in extenuating circumstances or to arrange after school activities must ensure the mobile phone is switched off during classroom and lunch times and that it is out of sight.
4. The security of the mobile phone is the responsibility of the student. It should be stored in a safe place.
5. The school office is the preferred place for the storage of these phones. Alternatively the teacher may offer to place the phone on their desk or in a locker for safe storage throughout the day. No liability will be accepted by the school in the event of the loss, theft or damage of any device
6. It is important that students display courtesy, consideration and respect for others whenever they are using a mobile phone. This includes after school hours.
7. If at any time, the use of a mobile phone, in-phone camera or similar device is deemed appropriate for use within the curriculum program by a teacher, the teacher should inform the admin team of the intended usage. In phone cameras are not to be used anywhere a normal camera would be considered inappropriate, such as in change rooms or toilets; and
8. If a mobile phone or similar device is brought to school and not reported according to this policy, the administration will confiscate the item for the day and store it at the office. At the conclusion of the school day, the item can be collected by the students. Parents will be contacted by the administration to determine future procedures to be followed.
9. Students using mobile phones or similar items inappropriately or bringing disrepute onto the school through the use of these devices will have disciplinary action taken against them.