

# Arncliffe Public School - Student Mobile Phone Policy

## Introduction

As a communication device, mobile phones, when used appropriately, can offer students and their parents many advantages in terms of ease of communication and a sense of personal safety when children are travelling to and from school. 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 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 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 the 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 and Discipline Policy.

## Guidelines for Use

1. Parents of students who bring mobile phones to school will inform the principal in writing that their child requires a mobile phone on their way to and from school. This note should include details of the student phone number for the school register.
2. Once at school the phone should be turned off and handed in at the office for storage in a secure storeroom until students leave in the afternoon. Phones that ring or beep during the school day disrupt the learning environment. If students do not follow the guidelines, parents will be contacted by the principal to discuss the use of the phone.
3. 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.

## 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 this policy in the school newsletter

Whilst this is a new policy, we envisage that very few children will require to take up this option. This includes overnight excursions.

Phones handed in on arrival at school will be picked up at 3.00 pm.