USE OF MOBILE PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT SCHOOL POLICY

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<th>School Board Issue Date</th>
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**Reference:** Guidelines for schools issued by the Department of Education and Community Services on 23rd August, 2001.

**Policy:** This policy refers to mobile phones, smart phones, MP3 players, tablet computers and similar items — ‘personal electronic devices’.

**Rationale**

The policy is based on respect, responsibility and consideration of others. The school understands that technology is part of the world of young people and that parents often support their children having mobile phones for safety reasons. Student responsibility for the appropriate use of personal electronic devices at school is required at all times. Listening to music, watching videos, playing games, accessing the internet, taking photos or videos and using mobile phones to talk or text during class disrupts teaching and learning.

**Guidelines and Expectations**

- Courtesy and consideration is expected from students in their use of personal electronic devices at all times.

- Personal electronic devices may not be used in class, assembly or during class in the library unless they are being used for specific class work or for support of class activities with specific permission given by the teacher.

- Students at the Primary Site are to turn any personal electronic devices off and hand them in to their classroom teacher for safe storage during school hours.

- Students at the Senior Site are to keep these devices out of sight, and switched off during class time.
  - If Senior Site students must have personal electronic devices at school, they may use them at recess and lunch only.
  - Senior Site students attempting to use these items during class will be asked to stop using them. Failure to do so will result in the item being confiscated for the rest of the day.

- Continued misuse and arguments will result in parents being contacted and being asked to keep the personal electronic device at home.

- Students may not film, photograph or video others without permission.

- Bullying or harassment through text messaging, photographing and videoing is unacceptable and will be dealt with through the School Behaviour Management Policy.
• Students may use the front office phone for emergencies.

• Parents are asked to support the school’s policy by not contacting students on their mobile phone during class time. Messages and urgent contact can be made as usual through the front office.

• Personal electronic devices are brought to school at the student’s own risk. The school will not accept responsibility for the loss, theft, or damage to these items which has occurred at school. This is consistent with the Department of Education and Community Services Circular Minute 8/00 entitled ‘Liability for the Loss, Damage, or Theft of Students’ Personal Property at School’.

• Student use of personal electronic devices with internet access must also follow the “Acceptable Internet Use” procedures.

**Support**

The Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA) has a range advice and tips on countering bullying for students and parents, consumer safety and affordability of mobile phones at: [www.amta.org.au](http://www.amta.org.au)