McCallums Hill Public School

Student Mobile Phone and Related Technology Use Policy

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.

**Any electronic devices other than mobile phones are strictly prohibited for all students.**

What is Inappropriate Use?

Examples of misuse of mobile phones include:
- cyberbullying by text, image and email messaging;
- taking and sharing inappropriate pictures;
- access to inappropriate websites bypassing the school filtering system;
- general disruption to learning caused by pupils accessing phones in lessons;
- making disrespectful comments, misrepresenting events or making defamatory remarks about teachers or other pupils;
- pupils phoning parents immediately following an incident so that the ability of staff to deal with an incident is compromised;
- pupils posting material on social network sites;
- filming or photographing students in order to humiliate, embarrass and intimidate by publishing to a wider audience eg. Facebook or YouTube; and
- the use of a mobile phone for ‘sexting’ (the deliberate taking and sending of provocative images or text messages).

Any breach by students of this policy may result in consequences including but not limited to:

- loss of school privileges;
- confiscation of the mobile phone;
- enforcement of the McCallums Hill Public School Discipline Policy procedures; and
- the involvement of NSW Police.
Guidelines for Use

1. Parents will inform the Principal in writing that their child requires a mobile phone on their way to and from school (see attached form).

2. Whilst on school premises after 8.30am and before 3.00pm the phone will be turned off and placed in the student’s bag. If students do not follow the guidelines, parents will be contacted by the Principal or their representative to discuss the inappropriate use of the phone.

3. The mobile phone is only to be used in order for a student to contact a parent or carer outside the hours of 8.30am – 3.00pm.

4. Students will not lend a phone to another student for use as a phone, for text messaging, for use as a camera, video recording device or any other use. 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 Student Mobile Phone and Related Technology Use Policy

• Teachers will discuss this policy with their class.

• When inappropriate use is detected it will be dealt with in terms of this policy.

• The community will be made aware of this policy in the school newsletter and on the school website.

• Parents will need to discuss this policy with their child/children if they wish for their child to bring a mobile phone to school. Students and parents are required to sign the contract and return to school.