

## Wentworthville Public School - Mobile Device Policy

### Rationale

All students should be able to come to school feeling safe and secure. Mobile phones / electronic devices have become an important and invaluable part of our modern lifestyle. The school understands there are times when possession of a mobile phone / electronic device can provide a sense of safety and security while travelling to and from school, enabling urgent calls or contact for parents. In the Primary school setting if it was required that emergency calls be made, the school teaching staff or office staff would make those phone calls. The use of mobile phones / electronic devices, by students, in school requires clarification. There are concerns about the use of SMS, photos etc. to bully students.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with Legal Issues Bulletin No 35 (revised March 2013).

### Purpose

To ensure that mobile phone / electronic device usage does not disrupt the school's learning environment and wellbeing of the whole school community.

To clarify the responsibilities of students and the acceptable mobile phone / electronic device usage and possible consequences of breaches.

### Implementation

In general, students should not bring valuable items to school. These items can be easily lost or stolen. A device that is approved under the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program in the school is sanctioned by the Principal. If a mobile phone / electronic device is required for reasons of specific safety or urgency before or after school, then the child will store the mobile phone / electronic device in their own school bag and have the device switched off fully (not on silent). The phone / electronic device will be switched off between the school hours of 8.25am – 2.55pm and remain stored in the student's bag all day. No phone / electronic device is to be removed from the bag or utilised throughout the school day by students. The only exception to this is for the approved BYOD program.

It also needs to be noted that:

- Students bring mobile phones / electronic devices to school at their own risk and the school will not accept responsibility for damage or theft.
- No mobile phones are to be taken on excursions unless the Principal has approved it.
- Any student found using a mobile phone / electronic device in an inappropriate manner (bullying, harassing, intimidating) will have the phone / electronic device confiscated. Parents will be notified and requested to collect phone / electronic device from school.
- Departmental procedures will be followed in regard to inappropriate breaches of the behaviour code and further action may need to occur. Depending on the circumstances, action can include banning the students from using mobile phones / electronic devices or confiscating phones / electronic devices from individual students.

### Evaluation

The existing policy was reviewed in 2017 and will be reviewed again in 2020 or earlier if there is any change to use of this type of technology.