

CROYDON PUBLIC SCHOOL



POLICY: STUDENTS USING MOBILE PHONES

PURPOSE

This policy has been developed to ensure that there is a planned and agreed approach to students bringing mobile phones to school at Croydon Public School. This policy aims to establish guidelines for the use of mobile phones by students within the school environment and aims to set out the responsibility of staff, parents and students.

RATIONALE

As a communication device mobile phones, when used appropriately, offer students and their parents many advantages in terms of ease of communication and a sense of personal safety. However, mobile phones have the capacity to have a negative impact on the learning environment and the safety and well-being of students if used inappropriately.

KEY POLICY STATEMENTS

What Is Inappropriate Use?

The use of mobile phones in schools is only a concern if used inappropriately. Generally, a mobile phone will be used inappropriately if it:

- disrupts the learning environment or interferes 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 any 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. Students should only have a mobile phone at school with the consent of their parent. **All parents and carers need to give written permission for students to have mobile phones at school.** This permission note should be given to the office.
2. Phones should be turned off when entering the school and should not be turned on again until school finishes in the afternoon. If a parent needs to communicate with a child through the day this should be done through the front office in person or on 9747 3557.
3. Students must take responsibility for their phone and we encourage them to keep the phone on their person at all times.
4. Phones that ring or beep during the school day disrupt the learning environment. If a mobile phone is used on school grounds during school hours the phone will be given to the Principal and parents will need to collect the phone from the school.
5. Students must not lend a phone to another student for use as a phone, for text messaging or 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.

Related Technology

The procedures applying to the inappropriate use and security of mobile phones, apply equally to the inappropriate use of portable computer games, Walkman, ipods and similar devices. Current school policy and practice is that these types of equipment are not brought to school.

Introduction and Reinforcement of Mobile Phone Policy

1. The community will be made aware of the policy through the school newsletter and it will be published on the school website.
2. Students will be made aware of this policy at weekly assemblies and in class.

RELATED DOCUMENTS AND REFERENCES

- _ DET and School Student Welfare & Student Discipline Policies
- _ DET Legal Issues Bulletin # 35 (Feb. 2005)

Policy developed August 2011

Policy to be reviewed in 2012