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Department of Education
and Children's Services



USE OF MOBILE PHONES

The following policy applies to all school personnel, visitors, volunteers and contractors and students and is based on a set of values shared by teaching staff and the Governing Council.

Lonsdale Heights School Preschool – 7 understands that the use of telecommunications technology has now become the norm rather than the exception for many of our families and that mobile telephones offer a service to some families. Safety and communication concerns demand that some students have a mobile telephone with them for after school communications. There are, however, issues associated with mobile telephones. Issues include security, interruptions to school operations and student perceptions of equity and harassment. Our core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an environment free from unnecessary distraction or disruption. Therefore the school discourages the bringing of Mobile Telephones to school by students but we accept there are times when it might be deemed important.

Expectations

Students

- ❖ Mobile telephones are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school will not be involved in disputes and/or investigations over damage, loss or theft.
- ❖ Students are not to have mobile phones in their possession during school hours. The phone needs to be kept in their school bag and switched off.
- ❖ Parents are not to contact students by mobile phone. If parents need to urgently contact a student they should follow normal procedure and contact the school who will then contact and support the student as necessary.
- ❖ If a student needs to contact a parent they need to ask permission through their class teacher.

If these procedures have not been followed, the phone will be confiscated from the student and the parent will be asked to collect it from the school office.

Staff

- ❖ Personal mobile telephones are brought to school at the owner's risk. Neither the school nor DECD can accept responsibility for any loss or damage or for investigating such.
- ❖ Teaching and support staff have access to school mobile phones when required for excursions and camps.

Parents, Volunteers, Visitors and contractors

All users are to switch their phones to mute or discrete when in public areas, including meetings, interviews and classrooms.

All parents and visitors are to take and make mobile calls outside teaching and learning areas.

Exemptions from the expectations of this policy can only be approved by the Principal and then only in exceptional circumstances.

Use of Electronic Mail

The "Acceptable Use" agreement form controls emailing by or to students. Students are only able to send personal emails with teacher approval.

Other electronic devices eg Game Boys, Walkmans, CD players etc should not be brought to school.