MOBILE PHONE USE POLICY

Latest DET Update: 28/09/2013
First Developed: August 2016

Rationale

- Mobile phones are important modern day communication tools, essential in providing a safe and effective school environment. However, they can easily be improperly used, lost or damaged and must therefore be effectively managed.
- Reservoir Primary School will regularly advise children and parents/carers of their expectations and policy requirements, including use during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.
- Mobile phone cameras (still and video) must not be used in banned spaces for example changing rooms, toilets, gyms and swimming pools or to film people and their activities without their knowledge or permission.
- Mobile phones must not be used to send harassing or threatening messages.
- The school recognizes that access to a mobile phone by children is viewed as important by many of our families. The school also recognises that their use, for travel, re-confirming before and after school arrangements, etc. is again viewed as important by many families.
- While the school does not support the banning of new technologies which are commonly supported in the community, children and families are still urged to be cautious about bringing mobile phones to school and that children do so at their own risk.
- As with all privileges there is responsibility and if children do bring mobile phones to school, they must be managed according to this policy and our school expectations or they will have the privilege removed.

Purpose

- To utilise the benefits of mobile phones whilst managing the problems they can potentially cause.
- To ensure Reservoir Primary School provides clear policy advice on the use of mobile phones.
- To ensure the school complies with DET policy and guidelines.

Implementation

- As a general rule, mobile phone should only be used by children in cases of genuine need and only outside of normal school hours.
- Mobile phones are brought to and kept at school entirely at their owner’s risk. The school cannot accept any responsibility for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) resulting from mobile phone use.
Students who need to bring phones to school for safety and communication reasons before or after school shall agree to the following:
- Phones will be signed in at the front office as soon as the student arrives at school.
- Usage directly before and after school is limited to communication with parents/carer.
- No one else will be able to collect or access the individual’s phone.
- Phones shall remain securely stored at the office for the entire school day.
- At the end of the school day phones will be collected and signed out by the individual students.

Children are discouraged from bringing phones to school for any other purpose than required communication.
Children must display courtesy, consideration and respect for others when using a mobile phone.
The school reserves the right to prohibit students from bringing mobile phones to school related events.
Children misusing personal mobile phones at school or causing a nuisance will be brought to the attention of the Principal and the device may be confiscated until such time as a parent/carer or other related adult collects the phone from the Principal.
The Principal may revoke a child’s privilege of bringing or using mobile phones whilst at school.
Mobile phones owned by children and staff are brought to school at their own risk. The school’s insurance cover will not compensate damaged, lost or stolen personal mobile phones.
Parents/carers may wish to insure phones as personal property.
Please refer also to the school’s Bullying & Harassment Policy, the Photographing & Filming Students Policy and the Student Engagement Policy.

**Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET update late September 2013).

*This policy was endorsed by School Council on the 14th November 2016*

Reference: