



## **STUDENT MOBILE PHONE & ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY**

### **CONTEXT**

Mobile phones and electronic devices, such as MP3 players and portable computer game devices, are an integral part of modern living. They have become a convenient and useful mode of communication, organisation and entertainment.

For students traveling home via public transport, mobile phones can enhance the safety of these students. However:

- mobile phones and electronic devices are not necessary during the school day, are often a fashion accessory, and can be viewed as being the privilege of a few
- the availability of phones across The Glenleighden School negates the need to use mobile phones as part of the curriculum
- emergency phone calls during school hours should always be made through Reception
- socialisation and pragmatic skills are much better practised with one's peers in real life context
- bullying through the use of text messages on mobiles is becoming more prevalent
- the incorporation of camera and video technology in mobile phones raises issues with regards to the Privacy Act
- mobile phones can be used to trigger explosive devices in the case of an outside threat in school grounds



As there is no conceivable necessity for mobile phones, camera phones or other expensive electronic equipment (such as MP3s, IPODs, Discmans, digital cameras) to be at school, such equipment are not to be sent with students to school, with the exception of reasons stated below (see 2.). PLEASE NOTE: Administration is happy to provide safekeeping for valuable items for the school day if requested by students or parents.

**POLICY STATEMENT**

1. Any mobile phone or electronic device brought to school is to be turned off before the student enters the school grounds and may be turned back on when the student leaves the school grounds. Mobile phones and other electronic devices are not to be seen or used during the school day (i.e. they must remain in their bag).
2. Where there is a genuine need for safety or logistical reasons, or if requested by as part of learning outcomes, the parent/guardian must inform the Deputy Principal or Principal via a note or phone call to explain the situation. The arrangements agreed to would be considered a temporary solution.
3. In the context of students undergoing formal assessment or examinations (eg Years 3, 5, 7, 9 testing), students with mobile phones will be considered as if they have had notes in the examination. While this will not necessarily apply to the context of The Glenleighden School, this is the approach of mainstream schools and students and parents will need to be aware of it.

**CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATION OF POLICY**

- 1<sup>st</sup> offence: mobile phones or electronic devices used during school hours will be required to be handed in at Administration for collection at the end of the school day (2.45pm) Parents will be contacted.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offence: mobile phones or electronic devices will be kept locked away in Administration for one week Parents will be contacted.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offence: mobile phones or electronic devices will be kept by the Deputy Principal for parents/guardians to collect at a time mutually negotiated.

Endorsed by the CHILLD./Glenleighden Workplace Health & Safety Committee

..... Date ..../..../.....

..... Date ..../..../.....

Approved by the Principal

..... Date ..../..../.....