



# Helena Valley Primary School Mobile Phones and Mobile Devices Policy

## **RATIONALE**

When used appropriately, mobile phones offer students and their parents many advantages in terms of ease of communication and a sense of personal safety. Whilst discouraging students from bringing mobile phones to school, Helena Valley Primary School accepts that some parents give their children mobile phones as a safety precaution when walking or riding to and from school. However, mobile phones have the capacity to have a negative impact on the learning environment and the safety and well being of students. This Policy aims to establish guidelines for the use of student mobile phones within the school environment and aims to set out the responsibility of staff, parents and students.

## **GUIDELINES FOR USE**

Students at Helena Valley Primary School will turn off all mobile phones before they enter the school grounds. Mobile phones are not to be used during the school day other than in exceptional circumstances.

Students must not lend a phone to another student. The person who owns the phone will be held responsible for its use.

Mobile phones will be handed to the classroom teacher before the start of the school day, placed in a named plastic bag and stored in a secure container, which will then be sent to the school office for safekeeping. Mobile phones will be returned to students at the end of the school day.

In order for a student to have a mobile phone on school grounds, students and their parents/caregivers must first read, understand and sign the Mobile Phone Agreement.

## **CONSEQUENCES**

If a mobile phone is used in any way on the school grounds or if the guidelines above are not followed, the phone will immediately be confiscated and stored in the office. A school administrator will attempt to contact the parent(s) of the student who had the phone confiscated and they will need to collect the phone from the office. An interview with the principal or deputy principal may be necessary. During this interview a consequence for the student will be discussed.

Any student found to be involved in recording, distributing or uploading inappropriate images or videos of students, parents or staff on school premises will face serious consequences, including possible suspension.

## **THEFT OR DAMAGE**

The safety of mobile phones is entirely the student's responsibility and the school will not be held liable for any theft or damage to a student's mobile phone or accept responsibility for investigating loss or damage outside of the time that the phone is securely stored in the school administration office.

## **PARENT / STUDENT CONTACT**

Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the School Office (Phone: 92941062) remains the appropriate point of contact to ensure that the child is reached quickly and assisted in the appropriate way. Students can request to use a school phone if they need to make urgent contact with a parent.

## **OTHER MOBILE DEVICES**

Other mobile technology such as iPads, tablets, game consoles and iPods are not to be brought to school unless requested by the classroom teacher for a specific educational purpose. The school accepts no responsibility for the security of these devices and the procedures and consequences applying to the inappropriate use of mobile phones will apply equally to these devices. The Student's Online Policy covers the acceptable use of school owned technology devices and online services.