

Policy for the Use of Mobile Phones, Portable Computer Games, MP3 Players/iPods, Cameras and Similar Devices in Schools by Students

Introduction

There is a range of technology available today including mobile telephones, pagers, digital cameras, portable CD and MP3 players/iPods, personal digital assistants and other similar devices. All of these have the potential to be incorporated appropriately into lessons, opening exciting new approaches to learning. When these technologies are misused by students they can be very disruptive to teaching and learning and in some cases cause harm.

Balmain Public School acknowledges that students may need to be in possession of a mobile telephone at school for reasons relating to their safety in travelling to and from school.

Taking photographs or videos while at school or engaged in school-related activities by students may only occur if there is a sound reason for the photography. Depending on the particular circumstances and purpose of the photography, the permission of staff, parent/ carer or student may be required.

Where students bring a mobile telephone, portable computer game, MP3 player/iPod, camera and similar devices to school:

- The student must take full responsibility for these devices. The school or staff will not be responsible for their loss, theft or damage. Students who bring them to school do so at their own risk
- A student has the option of handing their device in to the school office on arrival each morning and picking it up prior to leaving in the afternoon
- Students will use their mobile phone in a way which reflects the core values being taught in schools, including the values of respect, responsibility, care and fairness
- Students must not use mobile telephones or other devices to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school. Such activities may incur disciplinary action including suspension
- Students must not use mobile telephones or other devices to threaten, bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the telephone or for any illegal activity. Such activities may incur disciplinary action including suspension
- Under no circumstances will inappropriate use of mobile telephones with cameras be tolerated. Students found to be using any camera contrary to this acceptable use policy will be dealt with under the school discipline policy. Disciplinary action will be taken in all cases.

Improper use of mobile telephones or other electronic devices may result in:

- The student being required to hand in their mobile telephone or other electronic device at the beginning of the school day for collection when the student goes home
- Confiscation of the mobile telephone or other electronic device until such time as their parent or caregiver is able to attend school to collect the device
- Other disciplinary action in cases where students have bullied or threatened or harassed other students or staff via the mobile telephone or other personal communication device or where the device has been used to take photographs or display inappropriate material.

Emergency Contact

- If a parent or caregiver needs to contact a student at school as a result of an emergency, they are required to call the school's main office and a message will be sent immediately to the student
- If a student needs to make emergency contact with anyone they can do so through the school's main office.