

## Evanston Gardens Primary School

### Mobile Phone and Digital Device Policy

This policy provides direction to students, staff and families about managing mobile phones and other digital devices that students choose to bring to school. Digital devices include, but are not limited to, smartwatches, tablets or laptops that are not part of a separate Bring Your Own Device arrangement. This policy applies while students are at school, or attending an authorised school activity such as an excursion, during school hours.

The school cannot accept responsibility for loss theft or damage of any personal property belonging to students, particularly mobile phones. Students are advised that if they bring a mobile phone or digital device onto the school grounds during the school day, they need to turn it off and store in the office. Parents are not to contact students via direct means during school hours, rather parent / student contact can be made directly through the school office on 8522 2082 in case of emergency.

The department's position is that primary aged students cannot use their mobile phones and personal devices at school during school hours. The department and the school recognise that there are legitimate reasons for students to bring a mobile phone or personal device to school. This may include:

- to ensure their safety while travelling
- so that parents can contact them outside of school hours.

During the school day students are not permitted to access or use their mobile phones or other personal devices. Students must switch off or mute their devices before storing them at the beginning of the school day. They will not be able to access their device until the end of the school day.

#### Storage of personal devices

Phones/devices will be handed into the office before 8.55 and stored safely. Phones/devices can then be collected from the office at the end of the school day.

#### If the student does not comply

- Confiscation of the mobile phone or device (returned to the parent/caregivers at the end of the day).
- Communication with parents/caregivers regarding mobile phone/ device use at school.
- A ban from bringing a mobile phone or digital device onto the school grounds

#### Inappropriate use of phones/devices

- The use of phones or devices to photograph, video, download or forward inappropriate , offensive or violent student incidents or other similar material is not allowed
- It is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone or digital device to menace, harass or offend another person. The school may involve the police should such an action occur
- Phones/devices may be collected by the school and held for SAPOL inspection or evidence. If collected by SAPOL, SAPOL will determine its return
- Photograph or record others without consent or parent consent.

#### Roles and responsibilities

##### Principal

Make sure:

- this policy is clearly communicated and accessible to all students, staff, and families
- there is a process for regular review of the policy
- secure storage is provided for student personal devices that are handed in to school staff

- processes are in place for monitoring internet and school network use by all members of the school community.
- Enforce the policy and responses to instances of non-compliance.
- Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.
- Consider requests for exemptions from the policy from parents on a case-by-case basis. Make sure that approved exemptions are documented and that relevant staff are informed about students' exemptions.
- Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.

### **School staff**

- Deliver learning opportunities and maintain a safe and productive learning environment. Take steps to minimise distractions from the non-educational use of personal devices in the learning environment at times when a device is being used by a student in line with an approved exemption or in circumstances where students' devices are stored in the classroom.
- Respond to instances of non-compliance in line with the school's policy.
- Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.
- Make sure that any student personal devices handed in for their care are stored in a secure location and are returned to the student (or their parent).
- Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.
- Implement Child Protection Curriculum and Friendly School Programme to teach the appropriate use of digital devices.

### **Students**

- Comply with the requirements of the school's policy and follow all reasonable directions from the Principal and school staff.
- If permitted to use a mobile phone or personal device in line with an exemption under this policy, do so in a safe, responsible and respectful way and support peers to do the same.
- Communicate respectfully with others and do not use a mobile phone or other personal device to bully, harass or threaten another person.
- Respect others' rights to privacy and do not take photos, film or audio records of other people without their knowledge or permission.

### **Parents**

- Support the implementation of the school's policy, including the consequences for non-compliance with the policy. Use the school's formal communication channels in all instances to communicate with the school (including where a student requires early collection from school). Encourage their child to always report to a school staff member in the first instance if they become unwell or experience an issue at school.
- Recognise the important role they play in supporting their child to use their mobile phone (or other personal device) in a safe, responsible and respectful way.

### **Communication and review**

- This policy will be reviewed as required by the Department for Education or in 2023 (whichever occurs first)
- The policy can be located on the school drive Policies and procedures.

### **Supporting information**

Documents which further support the appropriate use of mobile phones/devices are:

- school behaviour code, behaviour support policy
- school anti-bullying policy