

**HEATHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL**

# **MOBILE PHONE / ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY**

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**HEATHFIELD**  
HIGH SCHOOL



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education and  
Child Development



# MOBILE PHONE / ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

## Rationale

Our school understands students' attachment to their mobile phone and other electronic devices. Students often feel disconnected without them and believe they need to have the devices with them at school for various reasons. The purpose of this policy is to establish the criteria under which students can have their mobile phones / electronic devices at school without interfering with their learning and development. It will also address the safety of the devices and the wellbeing of its users.

## Non-Negotiables

- Mobile phones/electronic and Smart devices are to be turned off during class time and out of sight, unless instructed by their teacher to use them for a specific learning purpose.
- Ear phones are not to be used or visible unless connected to a laptop computer and being used for a specific, teacher directed, learning purpose.
- Mobile phones/electronic devices should not be left unattended at any time during the school day.
- These devices are brought to school at the discretion of the user and are their responsibility at all times.
- Mobile phones/electronic devices may be used during breaks.
- Mobile phones/electronic devices should not be used to access inappropriate material.
- Mobile phones/electronic devices should not be used to record images or actions of others without their permission. (Illegal Act)
- The recording of a person's voice or image without permission is illegal and the uploading of such files to the internet can constitute an offence. There could be legal implications for students who access, record or transmit any inappropriate or unapproved material.

## Concerns with Mobile Phones/Electronic Devices

Teaching and Learning programs can be interrupted through continual texting and ringing of phones which impacts on the teaching environment for teachers and hence the learning outcomes for students. It also reflects inattention to study. Mobile phone use needs to be monitored as they can be used to cheat in tests and to harass and bully others.

## Role of the Student

- Follow the above non-negotiables
- Understand they bring mobile phones / electronic devices to school at their own risk.
- Ensure phones/devices are turned off during class.
- Follow all reasonable teacher directives in relation to the mobile device.
- Not to use the mobile phone/electronic device during a school emergency.
- Be respectful of others in terms of their property and their rights.
- Do not let other people use your mobile phone/electronic device.
- Keep passwords safe.

Created on: 05/06/18

EXPECT TO BE **CHALLENGED**  
EXPECT TO BE **ENCOURAGED**  
EXPECT TO BE **THE BEST YOU CAN BE**



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## Role of the Teacher

- Support the application of the above non-negotiables.
- Warn students about inappropriate use and the consequences.
- Communicate clearly the expectations for the class in relation to mobile phones and other electronic devices.
- Be consistent and fair in applying the protocols.
- Should a student refuse a reasonable instruction regarding the mobile phone/electronic device, clearly remind them about the possible consequences.
- Communicate with parents with any issues arising from student use of mobile phones/electronic devices.

## Role of the Parent/Caregiver

- Discuss with their child about the merits of taking a mobile phone/electronic device to school.
- Not to call their child directly at school but to go communicate via the school secretary. This way the school can verify the legitimacy of any situations which need to be addressed.
- Be supportive of Heathfield High School's endeavours to create a safe and effective learning environment.
- Be aware of what your child is downloading.
- Ensure your child knows that threatening emails can be followed up through the Government's tracking system. The laws about threatening emails or SMS messages have changed and people can now be charged.
- Understand that if mobile phones or other electronic devices are lost, stolen or misplaced, it is usually extremely difficult to locate the device and identify offenders.
- Be aware that students can be legally charged for cyber bullying.

## When Not To Use a Mobile Phone at School

- To check the time. All rooms have clocks. Laptops have the time displayed digitally.
- Parent contact. Should a parent need to contact a student they should call the school and a message will be relayed.
- Parent contact. During an emergency, such as a bushfire, students should not call parents, relatives or friends. This may cause the parents, relatives or friends to place their lives at risk by coming to the school when a dangerous situation is occurring.  
One example could be a decision to drive into a bushfire area to retrieve their child when it is (a) unnecessary and (b) dangerous.

## Consequences of Inappropriate Use of Mobile Phones/Electronic Devices During Class Time

- Teacher will warn a student unless a general warning has been given. At this point, the teacher will confiscate the offending device,
- The device will be taken to the attendance office where it can be collected at the end of the school day.
- If the teacher has cause to suspect illegal use of the device, it will be handed onto the appropriate assistant principal or principal for further investigation.
- Should a student refuse to hand their device to a teacher when requested they are refusing a reasonable teacher directive. This action could result in suspension.

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