



Arthur Phillip High School

# Personal Devices Policy

2018

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## Preamble

Mobile phones, smart phones, MP3 players, tablets and similar devices are a part of modern society and the school accepts that many students will possess them. However, their application and relevance to learning are limited. Teachers and students have a right to teach and to learn in a classroom environment that is free from interruption by such devices and where learning is valued.

- Personal electronic devices in schools, present a number of challenges. These include:
- Devices which interrupt lessons and distracts and disrupts learning
- Theft
- Mobile phones being used to contact outsiders who may enter the school illegally
- Devices disrupting examinations and assessment tasks and distracting fellow students
- Mobile phones used as a means of bullying other students
- Devices used to film or photograph teachers and other students, which is a breach of privacy and a crime
- Devices being used to film fights. Such footage may then appear on the internet thus affecting the reputation of the school and those filming such events often contribute to the fight occurring in order to film it
- The right of teachers to make educationally sound judgements on the appropriate and safe use of such devices in their classroom.

## Policy

Arthur Phillip High School staff prefer that students not bring personal electronic devices to school. If students do choose to bring such devices, it is important to note:

- The school accepts no responsibility for those devices that are brought to school and undertakes no responsibility to investigate their misplacement, loss, theft or damage.
- Our policy is that the authority to permit the use of personal electronic devices rests with the classroom teacher. The devices will only be allowed when the technology is directly linked to the learning outcomes of the lesson.
- On entry to the classroom, these devices and earphones must be out of sight. The devices must always be switched off and out of sight during all assemblies.
- Where a mobile phone rings during a lesson, assembly or meeting, the phone will be confiscated by a classroom teacher. If a teacher sees a personal electronic device being used without permission, it will be confiscated and secured at the school's front office. Students will collect their device from their respective Deputy Principal at the end of the school day.
- Personal electronic devices are not to be used as a musical device, timepiece, calculator or personal organiser during class time without the express permission of their teacher for that lesson. If a student uses it, it will be confiscated and secured with a Deputy Principal until the end of the day.
- It is expected that students will follow the STRIVE code and be respectful if and when their devices are confiscated. Any student who causes a disruption will be followed up with appropriate disciplinary action from an Executive member of the school staff.
- Student infractions using personal electronic devices will be recorded and closely monitored. On the 3rd recorded infraction parents will be contacted and an after school detention will be issued. On the 4th infraction the student will be issued with a Formal

Caution of Suspension for Continued Disobedience. Upon the 5<sup>th</sup> infraction a suspension from school will be issued.

- For excursions and other extra-curricular activities personal electronic devices are not to be used without the permission of the teacher in charge. This includes using them on buses travelling to and from venues.

### **In Addition**

- Teachers in the Support Unit will use electronic devices as they see appropriate to support the learning outcomes of their students.
- Where parents need to contact their children urgently during the school day, they are to use the school's telephone number. Urgent messages will be delivered to students.