



Arthur Phillip High School

Personal Devices Policy

2019

Last Revision

Date: August 2019

By: Serena Pinzin

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 or theft.
- 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. They 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. The following consequences will be implemented to help support students manage their use of personal devices:
 1. On the **5th recorded infraction** students will be interviewed by the Deputy Principal of that stage and will be expected to hand in their mobile phone each morning for a period of 10 school days (mobile phone exclusionary period). Failure to be responsible and hand in a mobile phone each morning will result in a recess or lunch detention.
 2. Any student who states they do not have a mobile phone on their person and this is proven to be false or misleading may be issued with a Formal Caution. Parents will be notified.
 3. Students who continue to use personal devices belonging to friends inappropriately during the personal device exclusionary period will be issued with an after school detention and parents will be contacted.
 4. If a student receives more than **5 infractions in a term** that student will be issued with a Formal Caution of Suspension for Continued Disobedience and parents will be contacted.
 5. Upon the 10th 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.