



# Student Mobile Phone and Personal Electronic Device Policy

## Background

Port School became a mobile phone and personal electronic device-free zone for students at the commencement of the 2020 school year. Students are not permitted to use their mobile devices whilst on the school campus during school hours or while attending any school-related activities either on or off school grounds which may take place after school hours.

## Aim

The aim of this policy is to:

- Support staff and students to reduce the potential of distractions to learning.
- To protect the privacy of staff and students.
- To improve health and wellbeing.
- To reduce the chance of students bringing external issues to School through technology.

## Definitions

School hours

- From when a student arrives on the school campus to the conclusion of the day (2.10pm) including all recess and lunch breaks.

Student personal electronic and mobile devices not permitted by this policy include:

- Mobile phones.
- Electronic communication devices.
- iPads and tablets.
- Earphones.
- Ear-buds.

## Principles

- Students are not permitted to use their device whilst on the school campus during school hours.
- Students are not permitted to use their device when on school-arranged off-campus school activities which may take place either during or after school hours.
- Students are permitted to bring their device to School, but it must be switched off and kept in their bag or pocket for the duration of the school day, including breaks.
- Smart watches must be set on 'airplane mode' for the duration of the school day.
- The security of mobile devices brought on campus remains the student's responsibility and the School takes no responsibility for the recovery of items if lost, stolen or damaged.
- If a student is seen with a mobile device, the item/s will be confiscated and can be collected again at end of the school day.
- Repeated breaches of this policy will result in confiscation of the item/s until a parent/guardian can collect it from the School.
- Ongoing breaches of this policy may result in disciplinary action, as per the school's Behaviour Management Policy.
- If a student needs to make a phone call or send a message, they should advise a staff member. This may only be done in the area outside of the Principal's office.
- Parents/guardians are to be informed that in the case of an emergency, they should call the School in order to contact their child.

Students may apply for an exemption based on the following reasons:

- To monitor a health condition as part of a school-approved documented health care plan.
- For a particular educational purpose under the direct instruction of a teacher or staff member.