



ALAWA PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY

TITLE OF POLICY: Mobile Phone Policy

EFFECTIVE DATE: 31/10/2017

REVIEW DATE: December 2019

TARGET AUDIENCE: Staff Parents, Students and Carers

1. POLICY

This policy outlines the appropriate use of mobile phones and other electronic devices on our school site.

2. BUSINESS NEED

The staff and School Council of Alawa Primary School recognises that many students and their families own a mobile phone. We also recognize that some parents/guardians request that their child/ren bring a mobile phone to school for before and after school safety/security reasons.

Our core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an environment free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions. Therefore the school strongly discourages the bringing of mobile phones to school by students. The school is prepared to allow mobile phones on the premises but only within the parameters of the policy as stated below.

3. SCOPE

To inform all members of our school community about the appropriate use of mobile phones at our school. To outline the procedures and processes of this policy.

4. GUIDELINES

Staff: During teaching time, while on playground duty and during meetings, mobile phones will be switched off or put on 'silent' or 'discreet' mode. Except in urgent or exceptional situations, mobile phone use is not permitted during teaching time, while on playground duty and during meetings.

Students: In general, students should not bring valuable items to school, as they can be easily lost or stolen, which is often distressful for a primary age child.

Students remain responsible for all of their personal effects whilst at school. When students enter the school grounds the school takes no responsibility for mobile phones. Mobile phones are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.

There are no reasons why a student needs to have in their possession or use a mobile phone during the school day.

Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in an appropriate way.

Students are advised that if they bring a mobile phone onto the school grounds during the school day, their parents need to complete the Mobile Phone Permission slip and they must hand the phone in at the office before school and collect it at the end of the school day. The phones will be secured in the office and students can retrieve their phone at the conclusion of the day.

If students do bring their mobile phone to school it should be clearly marked with their name.

Sanctions

In line with our Student Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy, students who fail to follow these guidelines, the following sanctions may be applied:

- Confiscation of the mobile phone (handed back to parent at the end of the day)
- An office time-out or in school suspension
- Communication with parents/guardians regarding mobile phone use at school
- A student being banned from bringing a mobile phone onto the school grounds

Inappropriate Use

Generally, a mobile phone will be used inappropriately if it:

- Disrupts or is likely to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operations of the school; or
- Threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or wellbeing of any person; or
- Is in breach of any law

Inappropriate use of mobile phones will include students using them to bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the phone. This type of misuse will be dealt with under the Student Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy.

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. The school may consider it appropriate to involve the police.

Related Technology

The procedures applying to the inappropriate use and security of mobile phones, apply equally to the inappropriate use of portable computer games, ipods and similar devices.

Exemptions

Exemptions of this policy can only be approved by the Principal and then only in exceptional circumstances.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile phones onto school premises to adhere to the procedures in this document and this will be supported and reinforced by parents/carers to ensure acceptable use of these devices.

Permission to have a mobile phone at school while under the schools supervision is contingent upon parent/carer permission in the form of a signed copy of this policy. Parents/carers may revoke approval at any time and must notify the school of their decision in writing.

It is everyone's responsibility to demonstrate and model respectful language and behaviors in line with the core values of Alawa School:

- Respect
- Encouragement
- Pride
- Personal Best

Staff, led by the leadership team, will be responsible for the implementation and monitoring of compliance of the policy. Non-compliance will be reported to the Principal and dealt with at the Principal's discretion.

The policy will be reviewed by school staff and the Principal in December 2019

6. RELATED POLICY, LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS

The policy links to the MOBILE PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT which states that:

- The Department of Education and Training (DET) supports the use of emerging technologies for educational delivery and personal development.

- Schools are required to put in place procedures governing the acceptable use of electronic devices, including mobile phones, in the school environment. This policy can be viewed at the following site:

https://education.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/258061/Mobile_Phones-Electronic...-Policy-2015.pdf

7. **EVALUATION**

The policy will be reviewed by the Alawa School Council December 2019