



2022

Reviewed Jan 2022

Mackay North State School



Mobile Phone & Personal Device Policy

RATIONALE

The mobile phone, and personal devices such as smart watches, are an effective and quick means of communication. Where unforeseen events occur, mobile phones/devices provide students and their families with a ready means of communication. Primary school aged children, however, do not need access to mobile phones/devices during the normal course of a school day. This is necessary to prevent interference with teaching and learning and misuse that harms others.

In normal circumstances, parents or caregivers wishing to leave messages for their children should do so by telephoning the school office. Staff endeavour to ensure messages are passed on to students as soon as possible.

Front office staff also assists students who need to contact family or other persons in an emergency.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Mobile phones/devices are easily lost and damaged, so looking after them is just another unnecessary distraction for students at school.
- Emergency contact can always be made through the front office.
- Students who feel unwell **MUST** contact home via the front office. They must **NOT** use a mobile phone/device to contact a parent. This allows the first aid people to monitor the sick person while they wait to be collected. It also avoids students leaving the school without a record being made.
- The school cannot and will not take responsibility for mobile phones/devices that are stolen or damaged while at school.

PROCEDURES

1. Mobile phones/devices are not to be brought to school by student unless the following circumstance has been discussed with and agreed to by the principal:
 - The parent has requested that the student needs the mobile phone/device for contact between parent and child outside school hours. In this case the mobile phone/device will be turned off and handed in to the office immediately on the student's arrival at school and will be collected at the end of the school day.
 - The parent has requested that the student needs the mobile phone/device for medical reasons. Eg. Diabetes management. In this case the mobile phone/device will only be used for the medical purpose it is intended for.
2. Any student found acting in breach of these guidelines can expect that a staff member will take possession of the mobile phone/device and deliver it to the principal. The mobile phone/device will be turned off and stored securely in the office. The student can collect the mobile phone/device at the end of the day. Disciplinary action for breaching school rules will be imposed.



We prefer that mobile phones/devices are not brought to school but do realise that parents may have need to keep in contact with their children before and after school. There is always the provision for the student to contact parents and vice versa through the use of the office phones. We request that parents assist us in managing this mode of communication in the school.

