



Postal Address: PO Box 3012 North Mackay QLD 4740  
Delivery Address: Harvey Street, North Mackay QLD 4740  
ABN: 75 693 250 477  
Phone: 49400333  
Fax: 49400300  
EMAIL: [the.principal@macknortss.eq.edu.au](mailto:the.principal@macknortss.eq.edu.au)

**Mackay North Primary  
State School**

## **STUDENT MOBILE PHONE POLICY**

### **Rationale**

The mobile phone is an effective and quick means of communication. Where unforeseen events occur, mobile phones provide students and their families with a ready means of communication. Primary school aged children; however, do not need access to mobile phone during the normal course of a school day. This is necessary to prevent interference with teaching and learning.

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 -**

- Phones 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. 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 phones that are stolen or damaged while at school.

### **Procedures**

1. Mobile phones 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 for contact between parent and child outside school hours. In this case the mobile phone 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.
2. Any student found acting in breach of these guidelines can expect that a staff member will take possession of the mobile phone and deliver it to the principal. The mobile phone will be turned off and stored securely. The parent/caregiver will then be contacted and the asked to come to the school to collect the mobile phone.

We prefer that mobile phones 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 parent 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.

## APPENDIX 1

### **The Use of Personal Technology Devices\* at School**

This policy reflects the importance the school places on students displaying courtesy, consideration and respect for others whenever they are using personal technology devices.

#### **Certain Personal Technology Devices Banned From School**

Students must not bring valuable personal technology devices like cameras, digital video cameras or MP3 players to school as there is a risk of damage or theft. Such devices will be confiscated by school staff and may be collected at the end of the day from the school office. Breaches of this prohibition may result in discipline.

#### **Confiscation**

Permitted personal technology devices used contrary to this policy on school premises will be confiscated by school staff. They will be made available for collection from the school office at the end of the school day unless required to be kept for purposes of disciplinary investigation, when it will only be returned in the presence of a parent.

Devices potentially containing evidence of criminal offences may be reported to the police. In such cases police may take possession of such devices for investigation purposes and students and parents will be advised to contact Queensland Police Service (QPS) directly.

#### **Recording voice and Images**

Every member of the school community should feel confident about participating fully and frankly in all aspects of school life without concern that their personal privacy is being invaded by them being recorded without their knowledge or consent.

We uphold the value of trust and the right to privacy at Mackay North State School. Students using personal technology devices to record inappropriate behaviours or incidents (such as vandalism, fighting, bullying, staged fighting or pranks etc) for the purpose of dissemination among the student body or outside the school, by any means (including distribution by phone or internet posting) builds a culture of distrust and disharmony.

Students must not record images anywhere that recording would not reasonably be considered appropriate (e.g. in change rooms, toilets or any other place where a reasonable person would expect to be afforded privacy).

A student at school who uses a personal technology device to record private conversations, ordinary school activities or violent, illegal or embarrassing matter capable of bringing the school into public disrepute is considered to be in breach of this policy.

Even where consent is obtained for such recording, the school will not tolerate images or sound captured by personal technology devices on the school premises or elsewhere being disseminated to others, if it is done for the purpose of causing embarrassment to individuals or the school, for the

purpose of bullying<sup>1</sup> or harassment, including racial and sexual harassment, or where without such intent a reasonable person would conclude that such outcomes may have or will occur.

Students involved in:

- recording; and/or
- disseminating material (through text messaging, display, internet uploading etc); and/or,
- knowingly being a subject of a recording
- Breach of this policy may be subject to discipline (including suspension and recommendation for exclusion).

### **Text communication**

The sending of text messages that contain obscene language and/or threats of violence may amount to bullying and or harassment or even stalking, and will subject the sender to discipline and possible referral to QPS. Students receiving such text messages at school, should ensure they keep the message as evidence and bring the matter to the attention of the school office.

### **Recording Private Conversations and the *Invasion of Privacy Act 1971***

It is important that all members of the school community understand that under the *Invasion of Privacy Act 1971*, 'a person is guilty of an offence against this Act if the person uses a listening device to overhear, record, monitor or listen to a private conversation'. It is also an offence under the Act for a person who has overheard, recorded, monitored or listened to a conversation to which s/he is not a party to publish or communicate the substance or meaning of the conversation to others.

Students need to understand that some conversations are private and therefore to overhear, record, monitor or listen to such private conversations may be in breach of this Act, unless consent to the recording is appropriately obtained.

### **Special Circumstances Arrangement**

Students who require the use of a personal technology device in circumstances that would contravene this policy (for example to assist with a medical condition or other disability or for a special project) should negotiate a special circumstances arrangement with the Deputy Principal or Principal.

*\* Personal Technology Devices includes, but is not limited to, games devices (such as Portable gaming devices, Tamagotchis®, laptop computers, PDAs, Blackberrys®, cameras and/or voice recording devices (whether or not integrated with a mobile phone or MP3 player), mobile telephones, iPods® and devices of a similar nature.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Education Queensland does not tolerate bullying behaviour at schools. This includes bullying conducted by electronic means.