USE OF MOBILE PHONES AND DEVICES

Rationale

The Administration of Maria Regina Grade School recognises that many students and their families own mobile phones. We also recognise that some parents/guardians request that their children 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.

Aims

- 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.

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 any appropriate way.
- Students are advised that if they bring a mobile phone onto the school grounds during the school day, they must hand the phone in to their Class Teacher and collect it at the end of the school day. The phones will be secured in the classroom and students can retrieve their phone from their Teacher, at the conclusion of the day.
- Before classes begin in the morning and from 2:30p.m. onwards, no mobile phones or devices should be used anywhere on the school compound. Allowance will be given to students who need to communicate with their parents ONLY.
- If students do bring their mobile phone to school it should be clearly marked with their name.
Sanctions

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

- Confiscation of the mobile phone (handed back to student or 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:

- Used before 8:00a.m. and after 2:30p.m. on the school's compound. Incoming calls are allowed after 2:30p.m.; or
- Disrupts or is likely to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school; or
- Threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or well-being of any person; or
- Is in breach of any law.

Inappropriate Use

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 Behaviour Policy.

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, reading devices and similar devices.

Exemptions

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

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