

GREEN VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL

We Aim High

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

1. RATIONALE

- Mobile phones have become an important and invaluable part of our modern lifestyle. The school understands there are times when possession of a mobile phone can provide a sense of safety and security while travelling to and from school, as well as enabling urgent calls or contact for parents. Given the primary school setting we should consider their use in this context.
- This policy is to be read in conjunction with Legal Issues Bulletin No 35.
- There are current concerns about the use of SMS to bully others and all students should be able to come to school feeling safe and secure.

2. PURPOSE

- The school aims to provide a happy, safe and stimulating learning environment for all students. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that mobile phone usage does not disrupt this learning environment.
- To clarify the responsibilities of staff and students with regard to mobile phones.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

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.
- If a mobile phone is required for reasons of specific safety or urgency then parents should negotiate with the Principal on how best to manage this. Usually this will involve parents notifying the Principal in writing that their child will be bringing a mobile phone to school for safety reasons. This will only be for urgent situations and the student will be responsible for this.
- Students bring mobile phones to school at their own risk.
- Students who bring mobile phones to school without prior arrangement and written permission will be expected to turn the phone off, leave it at the office and request that their parents contact the school to negotiate any specific urgent needs.
- It has always been the school's practice to pass on important messages to students throughout the day. This can be done by phoning the office and requesting that the message be given to the child (in most circumstances there will be no need for students to have a mobile phone).
- No mobile phones are to be taken on excursions.
- Any student found using a mobile phone in an inappropriate manner (bullying, harassing, intimidating) will have the phone confiscated and returned to the parent. The student would also be subject to the appropriate discipline code.

Staff

- Mobile phones are to be switched off/silent profile during meetings, playground duty and class sessions. In the case of an urgent call please advise the School Administration Officer of your urgent circumstances.
- The school mobile phone will be available for staff to use during excursions. If preferred staff could use the school SIM card in their own phone for school excursions. Please see school office for details.

NB. Parents or students should contact staff through the school office – staff should not give out *personal* mobile phone numbers.

Parents

- Parents will be asked to turn phones off when volunteering in classrooms and attending assemblies and meetings so that there is no disruption to the school's programs.

4. EVALUATION

- This policy will be reviewed in 2011 or earlier if there is any change to use of technology.

5. RESOURCES

n/a