



Mobile Phone and Personal Digital Devices Policy

Reviewed November 2019

Background

The widespread ownership of mobile phones and Personal Digital Devices (PDD) among young people requires that school administrators, teachers, students, and parents take steps to ensure that they are used responsibly.

PDD includes such things as music players (iPods), photo/video players, smart watches, game players and digital organisers this also includes the use of laptops and mobile internet connection devices. As technology develops, it creates variations and combinations. These and new devices will be included in this policy.

This Acceptable Use Policy is designed to ensure that mobile phones and PDD are used positively in school by ensuring that potential issues are clearly understood and conflicts avoided, enabling their benefits to be enjoyed by our students. Students, their parents or caregivers must read and understand this Acceptable Use Policy, which also applies during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.

Policy Statement

All digital devices and mobile phones are either to be switched off or in silent mode and kept out of sight in the student's school bag or in the phone container provided in all classes so as not to be disruptive in any learning environment at Whyalla High School. Smart watches must also be disconnected during lesson time. This includes the time moving to or between lessons.

PDD / Mobile Phone uses

These devices can have many positive uses but if used inappropriately in an educational environment, can adversely affect the core business of teaching and learning as well as student and staff wellbeing. In particular, mobile phones have some inherent social dangers and there are possible legal implications if used inappropriately.

At break times

In the school grounds at break times, PDD and mobile phones may be used provided they do not cause embarrassment or harm to fellow students, staff or visitors to the school.

Excursions and camps

Excursions and camps are an extension of classroom lesson time with a learning situation taking place. Digital devices may be used as directed by the teacher. Access to all forms of social media on a school camp or excursion is prohibited. This will result in a suspension.

Inappropriate Use / conduct

As mobile phones and PDD, have personal recording, storage and transmission capacities, students must apply care and forethought to avoid antisocial and illegal use.

Mobile phones and PDD are not to be used to record, store or transmit offensive material, including offensive ring tones.

Possession and/or sharing of offensive or pornographic material via a mobile phone or PDD is a criminal offence and will be reported to Police.

Students are not to engage in antisocial behaviour, in particular using a mobile phone to threaten, bully or harass others as it is a criminal offence.

Mobile phone and PDD audible sounds or music must not be disruptive to anyone in the school environment.



Sanctions

Students using a mobile phone or PDD inappropriately will face disciplinary action as sanctioned by the Principal in accordance with the school's behaviour code. In any instance where a criminal offence is committed, the Principal is bound by law to involve the police.

Students who infringe the guidelines set out in this document face having their phones or PDD's confiscated by teachers. The device will be taken to a secure place within the school and the student's parent/carer informed. Appropriate arrangements would then be made for the parents or police to collect it. Permission to view the contents of the phone may be sought from parents where appropriate. Infringements may result in the withdrawal of the agreement to allow the student to bring their mobile telephone or PDD to school.

Personal safety and security

Whyalla High School accepts that parents give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child on the way to and from school. Parents are reminded the school office remains the primary point of contact and ensures your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way. Due to our duty of care role, parents must contact the school before a child can be permitted to leave.

Theft or damage

Mobile phones and PDD that are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to front office reception or student services.

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged electronic devices either at school or while travelling to and from school.

Responsibilities

Parents should be aware if their child takes a mobile phone to school.

It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile phones and PDD to school to abide by this policy and agree to use these devices appropriately.