

Mobile Phone POLICY

Rationale:

The staff and School Council of Montmorency South Primary School recognise that many students and their families own a mobile phone. We also recognise that some parents/guardians request that their child/ren 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 outline the appropriate use of mobile phones on our school site.

Guidelines:

Staff

- Staff will follow DET (Department of Education and Training) guidelines for appropriate use of mobile phones.
- During teaching time, while on yard duty and during meetings, mobile phones will be put on 'silent' or 'discreet' mode.
- The only exemptions to this are in exceptional or urgent situations or when used as a teaching device.

Parents

- Parents recording events are for personal use only, not social media such as Facebook.
- **Parents are advised that the only way to contact their child during school hours is to call the office on 9439 6201.** Staff can then ensure that the student is reached quickly and assisted in the appropriate manner.

Students

- The school discourages the bringing of any valuable items to school, as they can be lost, stolen or damaged.
- The school takes no responsibility should anything happen to mobile phones brought to school. Mobile phones are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk.
- To reduce the risk of theft during school hours, students who carry mobile phones are advised to keep them well concealed in their bag and not 'advertise' they have them.
- Students, their parents or guardians must read and understand this policy.
- This policy also applies to students during extra-curricular activities.
- Under no circumstances are mobile phones to be taken on camps or school excursions. Staff will have a mobile phone that the school can contact the teacher on.

Inappropriate Use

Inappropriate use includes:

- Disruptions or likely disruptions to the learning environment or interference with the operation of the school.
- Use of mobile phones by students to connect to the Internet during the school day, please refer to the Internet Acceptable User Agreement.
- Mobile phones are not permitted to be used during the school day; for example; if the child is feeling unwell or experiencing social difficulties – the teacher will advise the parents.
- Threats or likely threats to the privacy, well-being or safety of any person; the breach of any law.

Consequences

- Should there be continued inappropriate use, the responsible student may face disciplinary actions as sanctioned by the Principal.
- Use of the mobile phone in the bullying, intimidation or harassment of other people through SMS or text messages, photographic, video or other data transfer systems available on the phone. This type of misuse will be dealt with as per School Policies and be regarded as bullying.

The Principal reserves the right to grant exemptions to this policy in exceptional circumstances.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's two-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in 2015.		
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This policy is due to be reviewed by School Council in 2017.		
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