



Athelstone
School

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MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Rationale

We recognise that some parents/caregivers request that their child/ren bring a mobile phone to school for before and after school safety or 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.

Guidelines

In general, students should not bring any valuable items to school, as they can be lost or stolen. Students remain responsible for all of their personal effects whilst at school. 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. If a student needs to make an urgent phone call to their parents, they can ask at the front office.

If a student must bring a mobile phone to school, parents need to complete a Mobile Phone Permission Form which is available at the front office. In this case, the student's phone must remain switched off in their school bag or kept at the front office in a labeled bag to be collected at the end of the day.

Inappropriate conduct

Any student/s caught using a mobile phone at school including making phone calls, texting, taking photos/videos or any other use will have the phone confiscated and face disciplinary action as sanctioned by the Principal.

DECS states: *"Principals can suspend or exclude a student who acts in a manner that threatens the safety or wellbeing of a student or staff member, or another person associated with the school. These regulations do not preclude an event that occurs outside of school hours or off site. Principals can therefore use these procedures with a student enrolled at their school if the Principal believes, on reasonable grounds, that the student has acted in such a manner, even if this behaviour occurred outside of school hours or off site. Police officers also have the power to confiscate a mobile phone where the image held on the phone is possible evidence in a crime."*

Related Technology

The procedures applying to the inappropriate use and security of mobile phones, apply equally to the inappropriate use of portable computer games, recording devices, ipods, ipads, cameras, and similar devices.



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education
and Child Development