



ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICE POLICY

BLACKBURN LAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Florence Street Blackburn 3130

RATIONALE

At Blackburn Lake Primary School, we support the 'eSmart' framework for the smart, safe and responsible use of information and communications technology:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/esmart.aspx> .

Our core business is teaching and meeting the learning needs of our students. This needs an environment free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions, which can be caused by the presence of mobile/smart phones at school. The rationale of this policy is to meet the learning needs of our students, as well as also recognising that:

- many students and their families own a mobile/smart phone; and
- some parents/guardians request that their children bring a mobile/smart phone to school for before and after school safety/security reasons.

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.

AIMS

This policy aims to inform all members of our school community about the appropriate use of mobile/smart phones at our school (including school excursions and other extra curricula activity) and their potential inappropriate use.

Although this policy explicitly refers to the use of mobile/smart phones, its provisions equally apply to the use of devices with similar technical capabilities, including portable computer games, ipods, tables and similar devices.

IMPLEMENTATION

Inappropriate use of mobile/smart phones for the purpose of this policy includes:

- The disruption of the learning environment or interference with the operation of the school due to use of a mobile/smart phone
- Use of a mobile/smart phone to threaten the safety or well-being of any person
- Breach of any law through use of a mobile/smart phone: The school will involve the police if necessary.
- Use of a mobile/smart phone to bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. The school may consider it appropriate to involve the police if necessary.

Parents and guardians

- Parental/guardian agreement to have a mobile/ smart phone at school must be indicated in advance to the school office, together with an acknowledgement of the school guidelines: "In the event that my child needs to bring a mobile phone to school my child will use this in accordance with the B.L.P.S Electronic Communications and Device Policy" (General Parent/Guardian Agreement Permission Form)
- Any phone brought to school without agreement to the General Parental/Guardian Permission Form will be confiscated and returned to the parent/guardian directly.
- Mobile/smart phones are used at their owners' risk.
- Mobile/smart phones are the complete responsibility of the owner and the school will not take any responsibility for loss, damage or costs associated with the mobile/smart phone.
- The Department of Education and Training (DET) does not provide insurance for personal property brought to school, including mobile/smart phones.

Students:

- Mobile/smart phones should not be used during school hours (9:00-3:30)
- Mobile/smart phones are not to be turned on or taken out of the student's bag at any time during the school day. Any breaching of this rule will see the phone confiscated and returned to the parent/guardian directly
- School excursions: Mobile/smart phones are not to be taken on school excursions

School camps: Mobile/smart phones are not to be taken on school camps. (Students wishing to take photographs are advised to bring an alternate camera.)

Staff:

- All school staff must adhere to DET Acceptable Use of Information Technology; this is outlined in the Staff Operational Handbook distributed to staff annually.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed within three years.

RATIFIED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL: 26th June 2018

PRINCIPAL: Loisia Steed **SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT:** Dan Watts