

# POLICY

## MOBILE PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Responsibility of: School Support Services  
Effective date: February 2009  
Target audience: School Staff/Parents/Community

FILE2015/279  
EDOC2015/13729

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices in the School Environment guidelines](#).

### 1 POLICY

The department supports the use of emerging technologies for educational delivery and personal development.

Schools are required to put in place procedures governing the acceptable use of electronic devices, including mobile phones, in the school environment.

### 2 BUSINESS NEED

The emerging technologies of electronic devices are a part of everyday life and can add value to a student's educational experience if appropriately incorporated into the learning program. However, use of some functions is inappropriate in the school environment and can be disruptive to student learning.

The major issues relating to the use of electronic devices in the school environment include:

- disruption to educational programs through the receipt and transmission of messages
- privacy concerns related to the ability of many devices to take photographs or record conversations without the knowledge of those being recorded
- access and interface with inappropriate materials via the internet
- potential for cyber bullying including the sender's view that they have anonymity
- loss and/or theft
- potential for breach of copyright

- responsibility to take reasonable steps to prevent persons being harmed by access to inappropriate materials, by cyber bullying, by defamation and/or threats of violence etc.

### 3 RESPONSIBILITIES

#### **Principals**

In conjunction with school councils, principals are responsible for developing procedures to govern the use of electronic devices within the school environment.

The principal is responsible for ensuring that procedures and guidelines regarding the use of electronic devices are developed and made available to parents/carers and students.

The principal is responsible for ensuring that the school's code of conduct includes a statement on appropriate use of electronic devices on school premises.

#### **Regional Director**

It is the responsibility of the relevant regional director to ensure that procedures governing the use of electronic devices in the school environment are developed and adhere to the requirements of the policy.

#### **Students**

Students are responsible for ensuring they comply with the schools code of conduct and procedures governing the use of electronic devices in the school environment. Students must ensure that devices are only used appropriately and responsibly, with due regard to the rights of others, including the rights of other students to learn without being unduly disrupted or put at risk.

Students are also responsible for ensuring that any electronic devices carried by them onto school premises are stored in a safe place during school hours, in line with any specific arrangements made by the school.

#### **Parents**

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to support and reinforce the procedures regarding the acceptable use of electronic devices in their child's school and to ensure that their child is complying with those procedures.

### 4 DEFINITIONS

**Electronic device** includes, but is not limited to, mobile phones, laptop computers, music and video players, still and video cameras, voice recorders, instant messaging services, personal digital assistants, handheld games and various other functions commonly found within these devices.

**Parent** signifies a child's father, mother or any other person who has parental responsibility for the child, including a person who is regarded as a parent of the child under Aboriginal customary law or Aboriginal tradition.

**School environment:** includes school premises, excursions, camps and other school organised functions and activities.

**School premises:** includes school buildings and also school grounds.

## 5 RELATED POLICIES

[Code of Conduct for Schools  
Excursions](#)

## 6 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

[Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association template in creating an Acceptable Use Policy for Mobile Phones in Schools](#)  
[NT Education Bullying, cyberbullying and cybersafety website](#)  
[Anti Discrimination Act \(NT\)](#)  
[Criminal Code Act \(NT\)](#)  
[Education Act \(NT\)](#)  
[Information Act \(NT\)](#)  
[Surveillance Devices Act \(NT\)](#)