

# Mobile Phone Policy

## **Rationale**

Mobile phones may provide students travelling to and from schools or institutes with a degree of security. While Bangor Public School discourages students from bringing mobile phones to school as all personal property brought to school is done so at the owner's risk.

Bangor Public School accepts that some parents give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. However, mobile phones have the capacity to have a negative impact on the learning environment and when used inappropriately can put the safety and wellbeing of students at risk.

The widespread ownership of mobile phones among young people requires that the staff, students and parents at Bangor PS take steps to ensure mobile phones are used in a responsible and safe manner.

## **Purpose**

***The purpose of this policy is to ensure that:***

- a safe learning environment is maintained at all times for teachers and students
- any potential risk to the safety and well-being of students and staff by inappropriate use of mobile phones can be identified and addressed.
- all stake-holders have a clear understanding of school guidelines and personal responsibilities related to the appropriate use of mobile phones

## **Guidelines for Acceptable Use of Mobile Phones**

### ***For Students***

- All students are to be made aware of the unacceptable uses of mobile phones to ensure they have a clear understanding of what is and is not appropriate.
- Mobile phones should be turned off as soon as students enter the school grounds.
- All mobile phones are to be kept in student's bag and not used during 9am and 3.25pm.
- The phone must not be lent to any other students as the student who owns the phone will be responsible for its use.
- Students will only be granted permission to access their phone between 9:00am and 3:25pm under exceptional circumstances. Such requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis and should be directed to the Principal or Deputy Principal.
- Students are not permitted to take mobile phones on overnight excursions or school camps. Staff will not be responsible for the security of phones if this rule is breached.

## **Responsibility for Mobile Phones**

Students bring mobile phones to school at their own risk – the school and school staff members will not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to mobile phones.

### **For Staff**

1. During teaching time, staff meetings and while on playground duty mobile phones should be switched off or put on 'silent' and may only be used for school related business.
2. For teaching and office staff, phones are only to be used in emergencies, except for the times detailed in points 3 & 4 below.
3. Staff may use mobile phones during designated break times.
4. Staff may use mobile phones during administration meetings to update calendars.

### ***For Parents and Community Members***

1. At all official school functions, during meetings or when assisting in classrooms mobile phones should be switched off or put on 'silent'.

**Inappropriate use of a mobile phone at ANY TIME, is as follows:**

- bullying, intimidating or otherwise harassing others through; any social media or SMS or text messaging or through photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the phone.
- recording or filming of conversations, including classroom lessons, without the knowledge and express permission of the teacher and the students and parents/guardians of any others involved.
- filming of fights or other criminal behaviour involving students that occur at school, during school or while on the way to or from school. Any such incidents are not to be recorded and must be reported to the school immediately.

**In addition, inappropriate use of a mobile phone during school hours 9.00am and 3.25pm, all of these apply:**

- using it in a way that disrupts or is likely to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school.
- downloading or otherwise accessing inappropriate material on the internet such as pornographic, adults only or other offensive material.
- using it in a way that threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or wellbeing of any person
- using it in a way that breaches any law.

If students use mobile phones inappropriately the principal has the right to take action and search the content of the mobile phone. Depending on the circumstances, action can include:

- confiscating mobile phones from individual students.
- applying student disciplinary provisions.
- reporting the matter to the police.

**Implementation of this Policy**

- Teachers will discuss this policy with students.
- The BPS community will be made aware of this policy through the weekly newsletter and at P&C meetings.

**References**

- NSW Department of Education and Training Policies and Procedures  
[https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/staff/ethical\\_behav/comm\\_dev/PD20020024.shtml](https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/staff/ethical_behav/comm_dev/PD20020024.shtml)
- Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association – *Developing an Acceptable Use Policy*