

SPINFEX STATE COLLEGE – MOUNT ISA

Electronic Devices Policy

BACKGROUND

Spinifex State College believes there is no educational purpose for students to have access to certain electronic devices during school time. Mobile phones are not part of any curriculum undertaken at this school and are not an essential learning tool.

Electronic devices can be disruptive and interfere with the learning/teaching process, and are also often a target of theft within a school. It is in the best interests of students that these devices are left at home. However we recognise that there are times when it is appropriate and beneficial for students to have access to a mobile phone before and after school.

During school hours, while under the protection and guidance of teaching and administration staff, all communication between parents/guardians/outside personnel and students is to be conducted through the school office. Messages, be they informative or urgent, will be conveyed to students at the appropriate time. Students who might be feeling unwell must make arrangements through the school office.

Students can be contacted at all times during the day, in the case of an emergency, by ringing the school office during class time. School practice allows students to use the school phone, at no cost, should they need to contact home in an urgent situation. Students do not need their mobile phones at school.

We **strongly recommend** valuable items such as ipods, mp3 players, walkmans, cameras, video cameras, discmans, gaming devices, mobile phones, and money are not brought to school unless for a specific reason related to a particular lesson.

RATIONALE

At Spinifex State College we are focussed on providing a quality learning environment for all our students. Our concerns regarding the use of electronic devices arises from our key priorities to:

- Provide quality, focussed learning and teaching
 - Mobile phones ringing or beeping disrupt the learning environment
 - Ipods/MP3 players can distract students from core business of learning
- Provide a safe and supportive learning environment free from harassment
 - Use of mobile phones to harass students through text messaging
 - Use of mobile phones to incite distractive behaviour; potential for bullying

GUIDELINES

- Electronic devices are not to be used during class time. By definition this is when a student is under direct supervision of a teacher – eg class, parades, assemblies, school excursions, sporting/creative arts practices etc.
- The use of electronic devices such as ipods, MP3 players etc is not permitted in class unless specifically authorised by a member of school administration.
- In-phone cameras are not to be used anywhere or in any way a normal camera would be considered inappropriate.

When students CAN use personal electronic devices	When students CAN'T use personal electronic devices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When travelling to and from school • Before the first bell at 8.15 am to signal the start of the school day. • During morning tea and lunch breaks after having left their classrooms (as long as they are not in detention or involved in a teacher supervised activity) • During flex-time • After leaving classrooms at the end of the day. 	<p>This means that the devices should be turned OFF during the following times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During class time (including form class, parades and assemblies) • Between lessons as there is a clear expectation that students are to move directly from one class to another. • During any detention. • During any out-of-school activity eg excursions. • When it compromises the integrity of the learning or assessment process.

Students who are subjected to harassment from other students in the form of unwanted text messages are advised to turn off their phones and report these actions to their telecommunication provider. Students who use mobile phones to harass students during school time will be dealt with according to the school behaviour management plan.

It is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace or harass or offend another person. Almost all malicious calls can be traced. In case of inappropriate text messages received at school, students are to report the basic details of the call (keep the message, record the time and date) to school administration. Inappropriate texting out of school should be reported to the police.

No liability will be accepted by the school in the event of loss, theft or damage of any device. If a theft occurs this will be reported to the police. We will co-operate fully with police in their investigations.

CONSEQUENCES

- If a phone rings or beeps, or a student is using other electronic devices during a lesson the following consequences may be incurred:

- Teacher informs student to turn off the device, or
 - Teacher confiscates the device for the rest of the lesson, or
 - Teacher confiscates the device for the rest of the day and hands to admin with the student's name.
- If a phone is used inappropriately eg sending texts or taking photos that are inappropriate the following may occur:
 - Teacher informs student to turn off the device, or
 - Teacher confiscates the device for the rest of the lesson, or
 - Teacher confiscates the device for the rest of the day and hands to admin with the student's name.
 - A member of the administration team rescinds the right of the student to have a mobile phone at school either for a temporary period or permanently.
- Any failure to hand over an electronic device when requested will be treated as refusal to follow a reasonable instruction and will be dealt with as per the school behaviour management plan.
- Students who repeatedly defy the school rules regarding use of electronic devices may have their device confiscated and stored in the school office for collection by a parent/guardian.
- Students found with inappropriate content stored on any personal digital device (mobile phones, IPODs, MP3 players etc) will be dealt with according to the behaviour management policy for unacceptable behaviour.