

## **INTERNET CAPABLE DEVICES POLICY** (Mobile Phones/iPads/Cameras/Smart Watches, etc)

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### **A. THE POLICY**

- Mobile phones and other internet capable devices, except those issued by the school, are not permitted at school, or at any school based activity such as camps, excursions or sporting trips.
- Parents, prior to the departure of any school activity or excursion, must acknowledge on the TASS Parent Lounge, that their child is not taking a mobile phone or other internet capable device with them.
- NB: This policy specifically excludes having any internet capable device at school, or on a school activity, without permission, even if the device is turned off and kept in a school bag, luggage, or on a student's person.

### **B. VARIATIONS TO THE POLICY**

- Occasional Permission for one day may be granted by the Principal (or his delegate) for a student to bring a mobile phone, or other internet enabled device, to school.

Parents must write to the Principal, giving at least one day's notice, seeking permission for their child to bring an internet enabled device to school for one day.

Parents must give reasons for their request and permission may be refused at the discretion of the Principal.

Ordinarily, the Principal will grant permission in writing. Students must bring that letter of permission to the school office when they deposit their phone or other device before school in the morning.

The device must be collected at the end of the school day. Examples of occasional permission for one day: an overnight or weekend change of residence, a short term change of family circumstances or transport arrangements.

- Extended Permission, beyond a day: may be granted in exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the Principal. The Principal will provide written permission which will be lodged with the school office on the first occasion of deposit.

The device must be collected at the end of each school day.

Extended permission, for a defined time, may be granted for serious medical conditions that put a student at risk, for family emergencies or upheaval, or for other circumstances where the well-being of a child may be at risk, etc.

- Permission is given at the discretion of the school: the school reserves the right to assess any reasons given and grant or refuse permission for any internet enabled device to be brought to school.

### **C. RATIONALE**

- Duty of Care: the prime purpose of the policy is to exercise the school's duty of care and keep children safe at school.
- Personal internet capable devices, especially mobile phones, have the capacity to cause disruption and unnecessary distraction to the core purpose of a school classroom.
- Parents have a right to expect that when they send their children to school they will not be exposed to unfiltered online material they are not permitted to access at home. Personal internet capable devices can access offensive online material and make it available to children.
- Students have all necessary supervised access to school based internet enabled devices during the school day for the purposes of their education.
- Students have access to school telephones for emergency contact with their parents during the school day. After a school based activity, such as sport or excursions, staff have mobile phones to contact parents if necessary. Staff always remain with students until they are collected by parents, regardless of their age.
- Parents can easily get a message to their children during the school day by ringing the school office.
- Mobile phones on excursions have the great capacity to put a child and the activity at risk. They allow children to "contact" outside the group, make possible a compromise of the privacy of other students living in a camp environment and distract from the core purpose of the activity or excursion.

### **D. DIGITAL CAMERAS**

- Students may only bring digital cameras to school when they are required for educational purposes and are instructed to do so by a teacher. Digital cameras are permitted on school excursions and students are given guidelines for their use.

### **E. POLICY BREACHES: RESPONSES BY THE SCHOOL**

- Search: the school reserves the right to search a student's bag in their presence, or require them to empty their pockets if there is reason to believe that they may have a mobile phone or other unauthorised internet enabled device at school. Requests to female students will, wherever possible, be by, or in the presence of, a female member of staff. Where a female member of staff is not available a female Student Leader may be asked to assist.
- Suspension: students who have a mobile phone or internet capable device at school without permission will be suspended from school for a minimum of one day out of school.
- Repeat offenders should expect lengthy suspensions and not excluding expulsion.
- Students who take internet capable devices on a school camp or excursion, without permission, will be suspended for 5 school days for a first offence and lose access to future such camps or excursions, at the discretion of the Principal.
- Enrolment Review: parents who instruct, or give their child permission, to bring a mobile phone or other internet enabled device to school, or to a school based activity (camp/excursion etc) without written permission from the school, will need to show cause why their child's enrolment should not be terminated. Such review applies even if the child has been given instructions by a parent or carer to keep the device concealed and not use it. The device must not be at school without written permission.