

Naracoorte Primary School

Mobile Phone Policy



Updated August 2011

Communication between students and people outside of the school is possible using a variety of methods. Our aim is to ensure that communications are legitimate, appropriate and do not interrupt the good order of the school and students' learning time.

Although we recognise that some students require mobile phones after school hours for safety and communication reasons, we encourage students to leave mobile phones at home, unless absolutely necessary.

If your child needs a mobile phone at school he/she must keep it in his/her bag and turned off at all times. Each student is responsible for his/her phone, its use, abuse, loss or damage.

If a child repeatedly brings a mobile phone to school and uses it during school time, or in any way not supported by this policy, the phone will be confiscated and may be collected from the front office by the parent or caregiver.

Mobile phones are not to be used during school times. This includes school camps and excursions. All calls placed by students during school hours are to be made via the front office or, when on camps and excursions, the school mobile phone. Calls from families or carers to children can be made to the front office or school mobile phone and messages will be passed on.

Mobile phones must not be used as cameras at school; this is to protect the privacy of our students. Digital cameras are provided for each class or teaching team. We ask that parents/caregivers also respect this request and **ask for staff permission** before taking photos with any device. Photos of students **are not to be posted on the internet** without permission from the student's parents/caregivers; this includes social networking sites like *Facebook*.

Staff members are not to use mobile phones in lesson time and all phones are to be switched off or on silent mode during these periods except in an emergency or as arranged with Principal/ Deputy Principal.

While the school does not endorse the purchase of mobile phones for children, we encourage parents to be thorough in their research before purchasing a phone for a child. The Australian Communications and Media Authority (www.acma.gov.au) has a downloadable guide which includes questions to ask the service provider. The internet can be accessed on most mobile phones, which brings a world of opportunities in terms of communication, interaction and entertainment, but there are certain potential risks to children posed via the internet. These risks include accessing adult content and "stranger danger" contact in chat services.

The issue of bullying via mobile phones is covered within the school's Anti-Bullying policy.

SUMMARY

1. We encourage students to **leave mobile phones at home**.
2. Mobile phones are to be **turned off and left in bags** until the student leaves the school grounds after 3:25pm.
3. **The school is not responsible** for mobile phones brought to school.
4. Mobile phones are **not to be used at school nor on school camps and excursions**.
5. Mobile phones are not to be used as **cameras** at school by any member of the school community.
6. Calls to and from family must go through the **front office**.
7. Staff members are not to use mobile phones **in lesson time**.
8. Staff mobile phones are to be **turned off or on silent**, except in emergencies or prior arranged with leadership.

