



WHEELER HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL

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ABN: 18 246 198 266

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Review Date: February 2021

Wheeler Heights Public School Mobile Phone Policy

Policy

This policy outlines the appropriate use of mobile phones on our school site.

Rationale

The staff of Wheeler Heights Public School recognise that many students and their families own a mobile phone. We also recognise that some parents/guardians request that their child/children bring a mobile phone to school for before and after school safety/security reasons.

Our core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an environment free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions. Therefore the school strongly discourages the bringing of mobile phones to school by students. The school is prepared to allow mobile phones on the premises but only within the parameters of the policy as stated below.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that:

- mobile phone use does not disrupt the teaching and learning environment for any student or teacher;
- potential risks to student safety and well-being posed by inappropriate use of mobile phones can be identified and addressed;
- students, staff and parents have a clear understanding of school guidelines and personal responsibilities related to the appropriate use of mobile phones.

Responsibility

- Wheeler Heights Public School strongly discourages students from bringing mobile phones to school. However, in the instance where parents feel it is necessary for their child to have a phone in their possession at school, it is the responsibility of the student to abide the appropriate use guidelines outlined in this document.
- The decision to provide a mobile phone to their children should be made by parents or guardians who should be aware that their child is bringing a mobile phone to school.
- Permission for students to have a mobile phone at school is contingent on parents and students signing the Appropriate Use of Mobile Phones at School agreement.
- It is the responsibility of all staff, students and parents to comply with the appropriate use of mobile phones guidelines as outlined in this document and Department of Education and Training (DET) policy.
- The school accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged phones. The school also accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their phones stolen whilst travelling to and from school.

Guidelines for:

Staff

- During teaching time, while on playground duty and during meetings, mobile phones will be switched off or put on 'silent' or 'discreet' mode.
- Except in urgent or exceptional situations, mobile phone use is not permitted during teaching time, while on playground duty and during meetings.

Students

- In general, students should not bring valuable items to school, as they can be easily lost or stolen, which is often distressful for a primary age child.
- Students remain responsible for all of their personal effects whilst at school. When students enter the school grounds the school takes no responsibility for mobile phones. Mobile phones are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.
- There are no reasons why a student needs to have in their possession or use a mobile phone during the school day.
- Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.

- Students are advised that if they bring a mobile phone onto the school grounds during the school day, their parents need to complete the Mobile Phones at School agreement. Mobile phones should be switched off as soon as students enter the school grounds. Phones must be kept turned off and in student's bags throughout the school day.
- If students do bring their mobile phone to school it should be clearly marked with their name.
- Students are not permitted to bring mobile phones on school excursions and overnight camps under any circumstances. School staff will not be held responsible for the security of phones should this guideline be breached. In instances where students need to contact their parents this will be organised by supervising staff.

Parents and Community Members

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

Sanctions

In line with our Student Welfare Policy, for students who fail to follow these guidelines, the following sanctions may be applied:

- Confiscation of the mobile phone (Parent to be contacted and sign out mobile phone at the end of the day).
- Red slip citation or in school suspension.
- Communication with parents/guardians regarding mobile phone use at school.
- A student being banned from bringing a mobile phone onto the school grounds.

Unacceptable Use of Mobile Phones

Using mobile phones in an inappropriate manner is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Inappropriate uses of mobile phones include but are not limited to:

- Using a mobile phone at a time that will disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school such as anytime during the school day between the hours of 8.45am and 3.15pm;
- Making calls or sending messages with the intent to bully, harass or threaten another person;
- Using mobile phones to take photographs or recording of other people without their consent;
- Using obscene, derogatory or socially unacceptable language while using a mobile phone;
- Using mobile phones to receive download and display inappropriate photographs or other material.

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. The school may consider it appropriate to involve the police.

Related Technology

- Related technology such as portable computer games, iPods and other similar devices are not to be brought to school under any circumstances. The school accepts no responsibility for the security of these items and the procedures applying to the inappropriate use of mobile phones will apply equally to these devices.

Implementation of this Policy

- Teachers will discuss this policy with students to ensure they have a clear understanding of the guidelines and procedures.
- The community will be made aware of this policy through the weekly newsletter, at P&C meetings and the policy will be posted on the school's website.
- The policy will be made clear to all students and their parents seeking enrolment at Wheeler Heights Public School.

Ratification and Review

- It will be reviewed when deemed necessary by the school Principal and executive.

References

- NSW Department of Education and Training Policies and Procedures
- https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/staff/ethical_behav/comm_dev/PD20020024.shtml
- Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association – Developing an Acceptable Use Policy for Mobile Phones in Your School.
- South Coogee Public School Mobile Phone Policy
- Tomaree Primary School Mobile Phone Policy

Appendix

'Appropriate Use of Mobile Phones at Wheeler Heights Public School Agreement'



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Appropriate Use of Mobile Phones at Wheeler Heights Public School Agreement

Student Name: _____ Class: _____

Student Mobile Phone Number: _____

Wheeler Heights Public School accepts that some parents give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. However, the school has clear guidelines and procedures for the appropriate use of mobile phones as outlined in the Wheeler Heights Mobile Phone Policy. In order for any student to bring a mobile phone onto school grounds they must have read and clearly understood the policy as well as co-signing the following agreement with their parent.

STUDENT AGREEMENT

I have read the Wheeler Heights Public School Mobile Phone Policy and agree to the following:

- When bringing my mobile phone to school I will switch it off as soon as I enter the school grounds and it will remain off and kept it in my bag throughout the school day.
- I understand and will abide by all the guidelines for acceptable use of mobile phones at Wheeler Heights Public School.
- I understand the behaviours that constitute unacceptable use of mobile phones and will not engage in these behaviours at any time. I acknowledge that if I break the terms of this agreement my phone will be confiscated, my parents will be contacted and I may be banned from bringing my phone onto school grounds.

Student Name (print): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENTAL AGREEMENT

- I give permission for my child to carry a mobile phone to school.
- I have read the Wheeler Heights Public School Mobile Phone Policy about appropriate use of mobile phones and discussed the guidelines and procedures with my child.
- I agree to support school policy with regards to mobile phone use and agree to support school decisions and actions regarding mobile phones.
- I understand that this form will be kept on file and details may be used to assist in identifying a phone should the need arise.

Parent Name (print): _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____