



Hewett Primary School

Mobile Phone/Electronic Device Policy

The following policy applies to all school personnel and visitors and is based on a set of values shared by teaching staff and the Governing Council.

Rationale

The core business of our school is to promote and support teaching and learning in a safe environment, free from unnecessary distraction or disruption. The school is supportive of new technologies and is constantly seeking ways in which to incorporate these into teaching and learning programmes safely and productively to ensure that our students gain optimum benefits and their learning is supportive of the current and future world.

Students, staff, parents, visitors and contractors use mobile phones and other electronic devices for a variety of purposes including safety, business and general communication. Our aim is to ensure that communications between students and people outside of the school are legitimate, appropriate and do not interrupt the good order of the school and students' safety and learning time.

Students

Although we recognise that some students require mobile phones after school hours for safety and communication reasons we do encourage students to leave mobile phones at home, unless absolutely necessary. Should students need to bring a mobile phone or other electronic devices to school, they must not be visible and must be switched off as soon as a student enters school grounds and remain so, until the student exits the school grounds.

Mobile Phones at school should be given to the teacher at the beginning of the day and should be collected from their teacher at the end of the day.

Mobile phones are not to be used during school times. This includes school camps and excursions. Parent contact with students can be made directly through the front office, or school mobile phone when relevant. Any urgent calls necessary to be made by students during school hours will be made via the front office or when on camps and excursions, the school mobile phone. Mobile phones must not be used as cameras at school; this is to protect the privacy of our students.

Students are discouraged from bringing all other electronic devices such as iPods, iPads, Nintendo DS and similar items to school. The school has no control over the content on personal devices and therefore should these items be brought onto school grounds they must be switched off and remain in bags during school hours.

Apple watches, Gator watches or similar are strongly discouraged as they have the capability to make calls, send and receive texts and access the internet. These will be treated as mobile phones and we encourage students to not wear these to school but instead wear a simple watch with no other capacity similar to a mobile phone.

Students remain responsible for all their personal effects while at school. The school takes no responsibility for mobile phones or any other electronic devices brought onto school grounds.

A mobile phone or other electronic device which is used in contravention of this policy will be confiscated and returned to the user at the end of the school day. The consequences of inappropriate use will be in accordance with the 'Hewett Primary School Behaviour Development Policy'.

Staff

All users are to switch their personal mobile phones to mute or discreet when in public areas, including meetings, interviews and classrooms, except in the case of an emergency or as arranged with the Principal. Both incoming and outgoing calls are not to be used on personal mobile phones during class teaching and learning periods.

Parents, visitors and contractors

All users are requested to switch their mobile phones to mute or discreet when in public areas, including meetings, interviews and classrooms. All parents and visitors are requested to take and make mobile calls outside teaching and learning areas.



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, however this also brings with it potential risks to children. These risks include accessing adult content, cyber-bullying and stranger danger contact.

