MOBILE PHONES AT SCHOOL

SCHOOL POLICY

We are a welcoming community,
United in faith, and centred on
learning,
Who value and nurture the
dignity of each individual

St Augustine’s Parish School

Reviewed: Term 2 2010
Next Review Due: Term 1 2013
PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS

Some students may need mobile phones for their safety on the way to or from school.

Each student has the right to be able to learn without unnecessary disruptions.

AIM

To help ensure all of our children have safe passage to and from school.

To assist in ensuring an optimum environment for learning.

OBJECTIVES

To enable students travelling to school without parental supervision to have an emergency contact facility.

To ensure that students and parents/guardians are aware that mobile phones are not permitted to be kept by students while in a learning environment at school.

CLARIFICATION PROCEDURES

St Augustine’s Parish School does not encourage students to have mobile phones in their possession on the school premises (including classrooms and grounds) or during off-site school activities (such as excursions or sports activities) for the following reasons:

- They disrupt the learning environment
- Even when apparently silent, the use of mobile phones for texting purposes can undermine classroom discipline
- They compromise the security arrangements of the school by providing immediate information access to people outside of the school environment
- They are targets for theft
- They can be used as a status symbol, depending on the type, cost and sophistication of the device
- They can be used as a method of bullying/harassment of both students and staff
- They can be used to take photos of other children, which could contravene privacy legislation
- They provide a means of access to inappropriate material

Where students need a mobile phone for before or after school use, the student is required to give the phone to their Class Teacher or Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) staff for safe-keeping. Teachers or OSHC staff will secure phones in a lockable container.

Mobile phones are brought to school at the owner’s risk. The school does not accept liability for the loss, theft or damage to mobile phones brought to school.

Illegal use of personal electronic devices at school will be dealt with under appropriate policies and/or authorities.

If a student is found in possession of a mobile phone:

1. During the school day, it will be confiscated:
   (a) until the end of the school day or,
(b) depending on the severity of the inappropriate use, until parents/guardians are contacted to come and collect the phone. The school’s Behaviour Education & Personal Responsibility Policy will also be followed. Depending upon the severity of the incident, students may be fast-tracked, following the Behaviour Education & Personal Responsibility guidelines, to the Office.

2 While attending OSHC, it will be confiscated:
   2.1 During Before School Care – and given to the child’s class teacher, and steps as per 1 above followed.
   2.2 During After School Care – and given to the child’s parent/guardian or person authorised to collect the child, when collected from OSHC
   2.3 During Vacation Care –
      (a) until the child is collected from OSHC or
      (b) depending on the severity of the inappropriate use, until parents/guardians are contacted to come and collect the phone.

In normal circumstances, parents/guardians wishing to leave messages for their children should do so by telephoning the school. Staff endeavour to ensure that messages are passed on in a timely manner. Front Office staff will also assist students who need to contact family or other persons, as approved by the student’s parent/guardian as notified in writing to the school, in unforeseen circumstances.

REFERENCES
St Augustine’s Parish School’s policies:
- Student Internet Safety & Electronic Equipment/Devices Usage
- Behaviour Education & Personal Responsibility

Principal’s Signature: ___________________________ Date: / / TERRY KLUZEK

Ratified by School Board –

Chairperson’s Signature: ___________________________ Date: / / LES KING