



Mobile Phone Policy

Walkaway Primary School recognises that there are times when it is necessary and useful for students to have access to a mobile phone for both security and convenience. The school is keen to accommodate these needs whilst also addressing the needs of the nature of an educational institution. We strongly discourage the inappropriate and excessive use of mobiles whilst students are in our care.

Conditions of Telephone Usage:

- Mobile phones must be switched off and handed into the office on arrival at school and are to be picked up at 3:05. Smart devices are to be in aeroplane mode so phone calls and messages cannot be sent or received during the school day.
- A student may be granted an exemption for the following uses of mobile phones:
 - To monitor a health condition as a part of a school approved documented health care plan; or
 - For a particular educational purpose under the direct instruction of a teacher; or
 - With permission of a teacher for a specified purpose.
- The Commonwealth Crimes Act (85ZE) states that 'a person shall not use a service to menace or harass another person'; or is 'regarded offensive'. Misuse of mobile phones in this manner will not be tolerated. Students who engage in this behaviour will receive an immediate suspension.
- Students who are involved in recording, distributing or uploading inappropriate images, or videos of students, parents or staff on school premises will be suspended immediately.
- Students who send inappropriate text messages (cyber bully), on any mobile phone/device, to other students and staff will be dealt with through the school Behaviour Management process. The school will NOT take responsibility for managing and investigating inappropriate use of mobile phone out of the school context. Parents and carers will be called to deal with such matters. Where issues roll over into the school context appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.
- If mobile phones are brought to school, they are done so at the **owner's risk**. The school cannot accept any responsibility for theft, loss, damage or potential health effects resulting from mobile phone use. In the event that a phone is stored, any theft, damage or loss that may occur will still remain at the owner's risk.
- Any student who is feeling unwell at school and needs to go home **must** arrange this through the school office. **Under no circumstances may students use phones to contact home and make arrangements to leave the school grounds.**
- Parents wishing to leave a message for students should do so by contacting the school office staff who will relay the message to students.

Staff may temporarily confiscate mobile phones if a student does not comply with the above conditions or if the phone is used irresponsibly. Where a phone is confiscated parents/carers are required to retrieve the phone from the teacher. In exceptional circumstances the principal may also remove the student's privilege of having a mobile phone on the school premises.