

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Stuart High School (SSC) recognises that there are times when it is genuinely appropriate and useful for students to have access to a mobile phone - for example, to contact parents in emergencies or to confirm or change a collection time after school. It is not always necessary for mobile phones to be switched on or used during lessons.

The following 'common sense' rules apply with respect to mobile phones:

- Courtesy, consideration of and respect for others are paramount at all times.
- They should not be used in any manner or place that is disruptive to the normal routines of the School or to other people. This includes the sending and receiving of inappropriate text messages or data.
- Parents and students should ensure that such phones are properly and adequately insured as personal property.
- They are brought to and kept at school, and used entirely at the owner's risk. The School cannot accept any responsibility for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) resulting from mobile phone use.
- Students must not lend a phone to another student for use as a phone, for text messaging or for use as a camera or video recording device. The student who owns the phone will be held responsible for its use.
- Parents should set appropriate parameters and rules for their children for such matters as frequency of use, lending the phone to others, costs of access and call cost plan, etc.
- Students and parents should recognise, however, that mobile phones are a highly prized target for theft and, accordingly, phones should always be stored in a safe and secure place.
- These guidelines also refer to the use of mobile phones during field trips, excursions or other off-campus supervised activities.
- The mobile phone number must be registered with the Front Office staff.

Any student, who is feeling unwell at school and needs to go home, must arrange this through the Student Services Centre (SSC). While initial contact with home may be made using a mobile phone, all students leaving SHS must sign out through the SSC.

Non-observance or breaches of these rules may result in the privileges restricted or withdrawn.

Inappropriate Use

Generally, a mobile phone will be used inappropriately if it:

- disrupts or is likely to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school; or
- threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or well being of any person; or
- is in breach of any law.

Inappropriate use of mobile phones will include students using them to bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the phone. This type of misuse will be dealt with under the Student Behaviour Policy.

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 and the phone confiscated as evidence.

School Aim:

We will work together in a safe, caring and enjoyable environment to achieve successful educational outcomes for ALL students.