

# Stuart High School Mobile Phone Policy

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Stuart High School acknowledges that mobile phones and electronic devices play a key part in everyday life. In a school setting we need to have boundaries for the appropriate use of mobile phones/electronic devices.

Mobile phones/electronic devices may not be switched on or used during lessons; they must remain in school bags in the classroom or during lesson times (apart from the exceptions listed under appendix 1).

Teachers will ask students to hand over their phones if they are used at these times.

- In the first instance, the teacher will return the phone/electronic device at the end of the lesson.
- If this occurs a second time, the phone/electronic device will be given to the front office and may be collected by the student after school.
- If this happens a third time, the parent/caregiver will be notified and they will need to collect the phone/electronic device from the front office.

The following 'common sense' guidelines apply with respect to mobile phones/electronic devices at all times:

- Courtesy, consideration of and respect for others is paramount at all times.
- Mobile phones/devices should not be used in any manner or place that is disruptive to the normal routines of the school or to other people during lesson or break times.
- Students must not lend a phone/electronic device to another student for text messaging or for use as a camera or video recording device.
  - Note: **The student who owns the phone or device will be held responsible for its misuse.**
- These guidelines also refer to the use of mobile phones during field trips, excursions or other off-campus supervised activities (unless the situation is detailed under appendix 1).
- Students may not plug phone chargers into mains power points to recharge phones at any time. If the phone is used during a situation detailed under appendix 1, a recharge through a laptop or computer may be possible.
- Mobile phones/electronic devices brought to and kept at school are 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/electronic device use.
- Parents and students should ensure that phones/electronic devices are properly and adequately insured as personal property.

Students **will not be able to** bring a mobile phone/electronic device to school if they continually breach these guidelines.

**At no point** should parents/caregivers give permission for their child to contact them using the student's personal mobile phone, especially during lesson time.

### **Inappropriate Use**

A mobile phone/electronic device will be used inappropriately if the user:

- Takes it out of their bag to use during a lesson time unless specifically directed by a teacher.
- Threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or well-being of any person
- Is in breach of any law.
- Fails to hand over the phone when directed by the teacher. In this instance, the student will be dealt with using the Positive Behaviour Process. A consequence including suspension may follow at the discretion of the principal or senior staff with delegated authority.

**Inappropriate use of mobile phones includes students using them to bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system, including social media available on the phone.**

***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, in that event, will confiscate the phone as evidence.***

### **Appendix 1**

#### **Exceptions:**

- Students with a hearing disability who require a mobile phone/electronic device to support their learning.
- Occasions when teachers invite students to use their phone as a piece of technology for learning.
- On camps or excursions, if requested by the teacher, students may take appropriate photographs of notable places, sporting events and the like.
- Devices may be used for music if the teacher indicates this is appropriate.

**IF THE MOBILE PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICE IS VISIBLE, APART FROM THESE EXCEPTIONS, STUDENTS CAN EXPECT THAT THEY WILL BE ASKED TO HAND THEIR MOBILE PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICE OVER TO THE TEACHER.**