

# MITCHELL STATE SCHOOL ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY - 2013

Education Queensland has a policy titled: *“Appropriate Use of Mobile Telephones and other Electronic Equipment by Students”* which states that schools can make reasonable rules about the acceptable or appropriate use of mobile telephones (and other electronic equipment) at school. If you would like to have a copy of this policy, please contact the Principal.

## MITCHELL STATE SCHOOL PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICE ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

**Mobile phones and other electronic equipment, for example MP3/MP4 Players, iPods, iPads, cameras, laptop computers, games devices (PSPs, Gameboys), (including those with Bluetooth functionality), are not allowed in students' possession during the school day unless specifically and appropriately incorporated into the learning program (including those with capacity to record images/footage).** These devices can distract students from learning and listening attentively to teachers' instructions. They may also reduce the school's ability to provide a duty of care in protecting students from inappropriate text messages, music and images.

Students who use devices such as mobile phones & other electronic equipment on their way to and from school are to hand them into the Office for safekeeping during the school day.

Students on the register are required to hand in their phones to the School Office voluntarily upon arriving at school and to collect them at 3:00pm. Students not complying with the processes for mobile phones will be disciplined according to our school's Code of Behaviour and the Responsible Behaviour Plan for students.

**In the event that a personal mobile device is found in the student's possession, whether on their person or in a school bag, the student/s will be:**

- **asked to take the phone/s to the office, and**
- **a parent/guardian will need to come to school and collect the phone/device at the end of the day.**

**If the student refuses to hand the phone in to the office, the action taken will include:**

- **parent/s will be notified,**
- **a OneSchool incident referral will be made, and**
- **student disciplinary action taken in accordance with the Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students.**

**If the Principal becomes aware that devices have been used to capture and distribute images of violence, malice, etc and the images have been uploaded to a website, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with our school's Code of Behaviour and the Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students. This will include steps being taken by the Principal to seek removal of the inappropriate material.**

The Office staff is happy to pass on messages from home to students during the school day. Very few things are of an urgent nature that children must be notified immediately during school time. The school understands that parents may wish to contact students in relation to family matters or emergencies; however, these may distract or even distress the student. If such an event occurs, these matters should always be directed to the School Office so the appropriate support and assistance can be given to students by staff.

**Students are more than welcome to use the Office phone, free of charge, if a call needs to be made home at any stage during the day.**

Students may take personal mobile devices on school camps (at the camp co-ordinator's discretion). The guidelines for their use will be discussed for each camp individually and Policy Guidelines developed for each camp. Consequences for not following rules for the safe use of personal mobile devices at camps will be in accordance with the specific Camp Personal Mobile Device Guidelines. This is also viewed as a safety precaution for older students who are allowed to be independent of the teachers for some camp activities.

No liability will be accepted by the school in the event of loss, theft or damage to any device unless it can be established that the loss, theft or damage resulted from the department's negligence. Personal mobile devices are used at their owners' risk.

This policy will be reinforced every day.