



Aldgate Primary School

Student Electronic Devices Policy

Rationale

The staff and Governing Council acknowledges, that the use of student personal electronic devices (including mobile phones, iPads and watches) for communication while children are at school during the hours of 8.30am and 3.30pm, and in situations where they are cared for in the OSHC programme, is not necessary.

Although we recognise that some students require mobile phones after school hours for safety and communication reasons, we discourage students from bringing mobile phones and other electronic devices to school, unless absolutely necessary for security reasons and negotiated with the principal.

Communication between students and people outside of the school is possible using a variety of methods. Our aim is to ensure that communications are legitimate, appropriate and do not interrupt the good order of the school.

Our core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an environment free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions.

Cyber safety concerns relating to inappropriate use of mobile phones and other electronic devices and the damage they can cause require us to take effective action to manage their use in our school.

In general, students should not bring valuable items to school, as they can be easily lost or stolen, which is often distressing for any primary age child. The school is prepared to allow mobile phones and other personal electronic devices on the premises but only within the guidelines of the policy as stated below.

Guidelines

Students are advised that if they bring a mobile phone or other electronic device onto the school grounds during the school day, that this has to be negotiated with the principal and an electronic device agreement signed by both student and parent. Students **MUST** keep the electronic device in their own school bag and it **MUST** be turned off. That includes at all times during camps and excursions.

Students remain responsible for all of their personal property whilst at school. When students enter the school grounds the school takes no responsibility for electronic devices, they are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged electronic devices.

There are no acceptable reasons why a student needs to have in their possession or to use a personal electronic device during the school day.

Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency the school office remains a vital and the central point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.

June 2020
review date: 2022

Inappropriate use

Generally, a mobile phone or other electronic device will be deemed to be used inappropriately if it:

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

Inappropriate use of electronic devices 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 or related technology. This type of misuse will be dealt with under the Student Behaviour Code. Even if the misuse occurs out of school hours and off site and has an impact on student learning or wellbeing at school, action may be taken by the school.

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.

Consequences for inappropriate use

In line with our Student Behaviour Code, students who fail to follow these guidelines, the following sanctions may be applied:

- confiscation of the electronic device (handed back to student or parent at the end of the day)
- an office time-out, in-school suspension or at-home suspension
- communication with parents/guardians regarding personal electronic devices being used at school
- a student being banned from bringing electronic devices onto the school grounds (unless needed for security reasons and negotiated with the principal)
- any combination of the above deemed appropriate by school leadership.

Exemptions

Exemptions of this policy can only be approved by the principal and then only in exceptional circumstances.

Acknowledgements

This document has been written with acknowledgments to similar policy from:

- Seacliff Primary School

June 2020
review date: 2022