



# TURRAMURRA PUBLIC SCHOOL

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## **Turrumurra Public School Policy for the Use of Mobile Phones (and similar devices) in School by Students**

Updated February 2022

Turrumurra Public School Policy for the use of mobile phones, smart watches, recording devices, cameras, and other similar devices in schools.

### Introduction

There is a range of technology available today including mobile phones, recording devices, smart watches, cameras and other similar devices. All of these have the potential to be incorporated appropriately into lessons, opening exciting new approaches to learning. When students misuse these technologies, they can be very disruptive to teaching and learning and in some cases cause harm. Primary school students must not use digital devices during class, at recess and at lunch unless approved by a principal or teacher. Exemptions may be granted by a principal or teacher, including allowing students to use a device for an [educational purpose \(PDF 9739 KB\)](#), or as part of a [reasonable adjustment \(PDF 97.9 KB\)](#) for student learning and wellbeing.

Turrumurra Public School acknowledges that students may need to bring a mobile telephone to school for reasons relating to their safety in travelling to and from school. Where students bring a mobile phones, recording devices, smart watch, cameras and other similar devices to school:

### Student Responsibilities

- The student must take full responsibility for these devices. The school or staff will not be responsible for their loss, theft or damage or for investigating loss or damage. Students who bring them to school do so at their own risk.
- Students will use their mobile phone in a way that reflects the school expectations of Personal Best, Responsible and Respectful Learner.
- If students are wearing a smart watch, the watch MUST be in airplane mode during time at school.
- Students are required to keep their mobile phone in their school bag at all times whilst they are on the school site. Students are not permitted to use mobile phones when on the school site without prior permission from the Principal.
- Students must not use mobile phones or other devices to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school. Such activities may incur disciplinary action including suspension.
- Students must not use mobile phones or other devices to threaten, bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the telephone or for any illegal activity. Such activities may incur disciplinary action including suspension.
- Under no circumstances will inappropriate use of mobile phones with cameras be tolerated. Students found to be using any camera contrary to this acceptable use policy will be dealt with under the school discipline policy. Disciplinary action will be taken in all cases.

Inappropriate use of a mobile phone includes:

- using it in a way that disrupts or is likely to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school or institute
- bullying, intimidating or otherwise harassing others through SMS or text messaging or through photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the phone
- recording of conversations, including lessons, without the knowledge and permission of the teacher or those involved in the conversation [refer also to the separate section on Recording and Other Listening Devices]
- downloading or otherwise accessing inappropriate material on the internet such as child abuse or pornographic or other offensive material
- filming of fights or other criminal behaviour involving students that occur at school, during school activities or while on the way to or from school
- using it in a way that threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or wellbeing of any person
- use that is in breach of any law.

Improper use of mobile phones or other electronic devices may result in:

- Disciplinary measures as determined by the school's discipline policy.
- Confiscation of the mobile phone or other electronic device until such time as their parent or caregiver is able to attend school to collect the device.
- Other disciplinary action, including reporting to police, in cases where students have bullied, threatened, or harassed other students or staff via the mobile phone or other personal communication device or where the device has been used to take photographs or display inappropriate material.

Emergency Contact

- If a parent or caregiver needs to contact a student at school because of an emergency, they are required to call the school's main office and a message will be sent to the student.
- If a student needs to make emergency contact with anyone, they must do so through the school's main office, not from a personal mobile device.

Conditions of Use

To retain the privilege of bringing a mobile phone to school, students and parents must agree to, and abide by, these conditions of use which have been endorsed by school staff and the Parent and Citizens' Association of Turramurra Public School.

1. Parents should advise the principal in writing that their child is in possession of a mobile phone (or similar device), request that the child's name be recorded on a register, and submit the attached agreement. By signing the document, both the parent and student agree to the conditions of use.

2. Once at school, phones/devices are to be turned off or on silent and kept in their school bag. Phones and smart watches that ring or beep during the school day disrupt the working environment. In the first instance, the student will be warned and asked to turn the phone off.

3. Students must not lend a phone to another student for use as a phone, for text (or picture) messaging or for use as a camera or video recording device. The student who owns the phone will be held responsible for its use.

4. It is the school's responsibility to contact parents in the event of illness, injury or behaviour incidents. Students are expected to continue the immediate reporting of incidents such as accident/illness or behaviour to teaching staff during school hours for their action.

#### Introduction and Reinforcement of Mobile Phone Policy

- Teachers will discuss this policy with classes upon ratification.
- When inappropriate use is detected, it will be dealt with in terms of the policy, thereby reinforcing the policy.
- The community will be made aware of the policy in the newsletter.
- The policy will be published in the handbook given to all new enrolments.

#### NSW Department of Education Policies

- <https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2020-0471?refid=285859>
- Associated Documents Legal Issues Bulletin no. 35 revised March 2013: The use of mobile phones, portable computer games, recording devices and cameras in schools.
- Legal Issues Bulletin no. 56 issued April 2015: Confiscation of student property  
Online Communication Services: acceptable usage for school students



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PARENT/CARER MOBILE PHONE AGREEMENT

- I have read and understand the above information about appropriate use of mobile phones (or similar device) at Turrumurra Public School and I understand that this form will be kept on file at the school and that the details will be recorded on a register and may be used (and shared with a third party, if necessary) to assist to identify a phone (or device) should the need arise (e.g. if lost, or if the phone (or device) is being used inappropriately).
- I give my child permission to carry a mobile phone (or similar device) to school and understand that my child will be responsible for ensuring that the mobile phone is used appropriately and correctly while under the school's supervision, as outlined in this document.

Parent name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_