



Roseville Public School

Archbold Road, Roseville, NSW 2069

Tel: 9417 4107

Fax: 9417 4922

Email: roseville-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website: www.rosevillepublicschool.net.au

Appropriate Use of Mobile Phones (and related technology) Policy

Policy

This document outlines the appropriate use of mobile phones and related technology for students, parents and community members whilst on our school site. On Thursday 13 December 2018, the NSW government announced that in response to the recommendations made by a review team the use of mobile devices during school hours will be restricted in NSW public primary schools.

Rationale

The staff of Roseville Public School recognise that in today's modern world, many students and their families own and regularly use mobile phones. We also recognise that some parents/carers may desire or need their child to have a mobile phone before or after school for various reasons.

Our school's core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an environment free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions. This document outlines the appropriate use of mobile phones and related technology for students and parents/community members during school hours.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that:

- Mobile phone and related technology use does not disrupt the teaching and learning environment for any student or teacher;
- Potential risks to student safety and well-being posed by inappropriate use of mobile phones and related technology can be identified and addressed;
- Students and parents/community members have a clear understanding of school guidelines and personal responsibilities related to the appropriate use of mobile phones and related technology; and
- Students and parents/carers are aware of the appropriate channels for communication during the school day.

Responsibility

- **Roseville Public School discourages students from bringing mobile phones to school.** However, where parents feel it is necessary for their child to have a phone in their possession at school, it is the responsibility of the student to abide by the appropriate use guidelines as outlined in this document.
- The decision to provide a mobile phone to their child should be made by parents or carers who should be aware that their child is bringing a mobile phone to school.
- It is the responsibility of students and parents to comply with the guidelines outlined in this document and Department of Education (DoE) policy.
- **The school accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones. This relates to phones at school or whilst travelling to or from school.**

Related guidelines for Mobile Phones

- **Mobile phones should be switched off as soon as students enter the school grounds. Phones must be turned off throughout the school day and must remain within school bags at all times.** At the completion of the school day, students are permitted to use their mobile phone once they have left the school grounds.
- If students need to contact their parents during the day, the school's policy is that they do so through the school office.
- For the purposes of communication, students are not permitted to bring mobile phones on school excursions and overnight camps. In instances where students need to contact their parents on such activities, this will be organised by supervising staff.
- Students are only permitted to bring mobile phones on camps if they are using them solely as a camera. In this case the sim card should be removed. This will be confirmed by attending teachers.
- Parents/carers are reminded that in cases of emergency, or for any other communication that is necessary throughout the school day (such as changes to pick up routine) the school office remains the vital and appropriate point of contact.

Sanctions

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

- Temporary confiscation of the mobile phone (handed back to the student at the end of the school day or parent contacted to collect the phone).
- Communication with parents/carers regarding mobile phone use at school.
- A student's permission to bring a mobile phone to school being revoked.

Related Technology

- **Related technology such as portable computer games, iPods, iPads, smart watches and other similar devices, which can access the internet or be used as communication devices, are not to be brought to school under any circumstances.** The school accepts no responsibility for the security of these items and reserves the right to determine if a device is appropriate or not. The procedures applying to the inappropriate use of mobile phones will apply equally to these devices.

Exemptions

- Exemptions of this policy can only be approved by the Principal. Applications for exemption should only be requested due to exceptional circumstances and applied for through the school office to the Principal of Roseville Public School.

Implementation of this Policy

- The policy will be distributed to all parents of Roseville Public School.
- Teachers will discuss this policy with students to ensure they have a clear understanding of the guidelines and procedures.

Ratification and Review

- This policy was developed and ratified by the Roseville Public School executive in Term 2, 2019.
- It was forwarded to community in Term 2, 2019.
- It will be reviewed when deemed necessary by the school Principal and executive.

References

- NSW Department of Education Legal Issues Bulletin- The use of mobile phones, portable computer games, recording devices and cameras in schools and TAFE NSW institutes.
- Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association – Developing an Acceptable Use Policy for Mobile Phones in Your School.
- <https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/strategies-and-reports/our-reports-and-reviews/mobile-devices-in-schools>