

# Acceptable Use Policy for Mobile Phones

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## **BRADBURY PUBLIC SCHOOL- MOBILE PHONE POLICY**

### **Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones**

#### **1. Purpose**

The widespread ownership of mobile phones among young people requires that schools, teachers, students and parents take steps to ensure that mobile phones are used responsibly at schools.

This Acceptable Use Policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving mobile phones can be clearly identified and addressed, ensuring the benefits that mobile phones provide (such as increased safety) can continue to be enjoyed by our students.

Bradbury Public School has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones that provides teachers, students and parents with guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of mobile phones during school hours.

The Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones also applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.

#### **2. Rational**

##### ***Personal safety and security.***

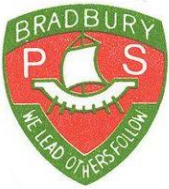
Bradbury Public School accepts that parents give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety when children are travelling alone on public transport or walking to and from school. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance at these times.

#### **3. Responsibility**

- a. It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile phones to school to abide by the guidelines outlined in this policy.
- b. The decision to provide a mobile phone to their children should be made by parents or guardians.
- c. Parents should be aware if their child takes a mobile phone to school.

#### **4. Acceptable Uses**

- a. Mobile phones should be switched off and kept in the student's school bag. ***Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.***
- b. While on school premises, students should not use soundless features such as text messaging, answering services, call diversion and vibration alert to receive important calls.
- c. Mobile phones should not be used in any manner that is disruptive to the normal routine of the school.
- d. Students should protect their phone numbers by only giving them to friends and keeping a note of who they have given them to. This can help protect the student's number from falling into the wrong hands.



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## 5. *Unacceptable Uses*

- a. Mobile phones should not be used to make calls, send SMS messages, surf the internet, take photos or use any other application during the school day.
- b. Using a mobile phone during school hours. Mobile phones can only be used before and after school hours and not on school grounds.
- c. Using mobile phones to bully and threaten other students is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. In some cases it can constitute criminal behaviour.
- e. It is forbidden for students to use mobile phones to photograph or film any student on school grounds.
- f. It is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another student and almost all calls, text messages and emails can be traced.

## 6. *Theft or damage*

- a. Students should mark their mobile phone clearly with their names.
- b. Students who bring a mobile phone to school should leave it locked away in their school bags when they enter the school gates/ arrive.
- c. To reduce the risk of theft during school hours students are encouraged to not 'advertise' they have a mobile phone.
- d. Mobile phones that are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to front office reception.
- e. ***The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.***
- f. ***The school accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school.***
- g. It is strongly advised that students use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones (eg by other students, or if stolen).
- h. Students must keep their password/pin numbers confidential.
- i. Mobile phones and/or passwords may not be shared.
- j. Lost and stolen mobile phones in Australia can be blocked across all networks making them virtually worthless because they cannot be used.

## 7. *Sanctions*

- a. Students who infringe the rules set out in this document could face having their phones confiscated by teachers. The mobile phone would be taken to a secure place within the school and the student's parent informed. Appropriate arrangements would then be made for the parents to collect the mobile phone.
- b. Repeated infringements may result in the withdrawal of the agreement to allow the student to bring the mobile telephone to school.
- c. As set out in the previous section, failure to heed the rules set out in this document may result in an alleged incident being referred to the police for investigation. In such cases, the parent or guardian would be notified immediately.