

APPENDIX 1

- Gympie South State School - Mobile Phone and Other Electronic Equipment Policy



Rationale

The use of mobile phone technology in Australia has grown significantly over the last five years. Due to this, Australia is now a leader in mobile phone use.

In June 2006, 82% of persons aged 14 years and over in Australia used a mobile phone. (*Census 2006*)

With this in mind, Gympie South State School realises the need to educate and inform our primary aged students on the appropriate use of such device/s, thus reducing the risk to themselves and others of serious misconduct which may inhibit their learning, affect their safety and the positive learning environment.

Aims

The policy aims to:

- provide ongoing education that promotes the acceptable and safe use of mobile phones and other electronic equipment, within the school and wider community;
- provide guidelines to support the acceptable and safe use of mobile phones and other electronic equipment while at school; and
- outline consequences of unacceptable use (i.e. cyber bullying, inappropriate images uploading) for students and parents attending Gympie South State School.

Procedures

Our school recognises that children carry mobile phones and other electronic equipment to communicate with their family and friends on a daily basis.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all children attending our school are:

- not inhibiting their learning with these devices;
- not affecting the learning and safety of others with these devices; and
- Using these devices to communicate when required.

Our Commitment

Gympie South State School will:

- inform parents of the Mobile Phone and Electronic Equipment policy when they enrol their child and distribute a copy of the Policy to families on enrolment;
- provide an “anti-bullying” program including cyber bullying/inappropriate imagery, via our school’s *You Can Do It/Program Achieve* SEL curriculum;
- inform parents and community via school newsletter of our policy and procedures to follow when children bring these devices to school;
- ensure staff follow mobile phone and electronic device policy outlined in GSSS Staff Handbook;

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- review Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy annually; and
- ensure inappropriate use of mobile phones and/or electronic equipment is dealt with according to our Responsible Behaviour Plan.

Specific Strategies

Education

Promote Mobile Phone/Electronic Device etiquette by reinforcing:

- the importance of students displaying courtesy, consideration and respect for others whenever they are using a mobile phone or electronic device;
- the use of mobile phones or electronic devices that is not disruptive to the school routine.
- the requirement that all mobile phones/electronic devices will be switched off and handed into the Administration when brought to school and collected from the Administration at the end of the school day;
- that in-phone camera use is inappropriate and will not be tolerated in toilets, change rooms or to capture physical assaults;
- that the use of mobile phones/electronic devices that contravenes the school's *Acceptable Use Policy* will lead to the device being confiscated by school staff, with the return of the equipment to be at the end of the school day and parents notified;
- the recording of personal conversations and inappropriate behaviours or incidents this further will result in disciplinary action and contravenes the *Invasion of Privacy Act 1791*; and
- the sending of text messages or posting statements to websites that contain obscene language and/or threats of violence may amount to bullying and or harassment or even stalking will be subject to disciplinary action and potentially police investigation.

If a student is found to be in breach of this policy further action may be required to ensure the safety and well-being of all students at Gympie South.

Organisation

Gympie South State School will promote these strategies and personal responsibility for these devices by:

- incorporating Mobile Phone/Electronic Device strategies in the SEL curriculum – both formally and informally;
- regularly reinforcing the Mobile Phone/Electronic Device policy in a positive way through the school newsletter; and
- Providing opportunities for children to leave these devices in the Administration for safe keeping prior to the school day commencing.