

HEATHCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

STUDENT MOBILE PHONE POLICY

PURPOSE

To establish the protocols for the acceptable use of mobile phones.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- The School Council and Staff acknowledge that the use of mobile phones while children are at school is not necessary. In these circumstances both parents and students have access to each other through the normal communication channels at school.
- Parents are able to contact the school to pass on messages to children to alter plans or to ensure their safety in cases of family emergency. Children can be called to the phone if it is urgent the parents need to speak to the child.
- Mobile phone cameras are not to be used by parents or students in banned spaces such as toilets, changing rooms or swimming pools. They cannot be used to film people and their activities without their knowledge or permission.
- The School Council and Staff of Heathcote Primary School acknowledge the importance parents place on the safety of their children. The ability for children to be able to contact parents in cases of emergency or danger is essential. Access to mobile phones by children before or after school has become a useful tool for families to keep in contact with each other.

GUIDELINES FOR ACTION

- Students are not permitted to bring mobile phones to school.
- If for some extenuating circumstance, a student needs to occasionally bring a mobile phone to school, the following will apply:
 - *The school accepts no responsibility for the theft, breakage or loss of phones. Under no circumstances are the mobile phones to be used while at school.*
 - *Phones must be handed into the Office on arrival at school. Any emergency contact with parents can be arranged through the class teacher or office.*
- The school accepts no responsibility for the exchange of contact details between students however use of these details for prank calls, harassment or bullying will be dealt with through normal behaviour management procedures.
- Students who attend camps or excursions will not be permitted to take phones. Teachers carry a school mobile phone to be used in the case of emergency. In a camp situation, emergency contact details will be made available to parents prior to departure.
- DET does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will not pay for any loss or damage to such property. Staff and students are therefore discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.

This Policy was ratified by School Council in March 2014.