Use of Mobile Phones Policy

RATIONALE

This policy addresses procedures for the use of mobile phones and multi media devices at Wollongong West Public School.

INTRODUCTION

There is a range of technology available today including mobile telephones, pagers, digital cameras, portable CD ad MP3 players/iPods, personal digital assistant and other similar devices. All of these have the potential to be incorporated appropriately into lessons, opening exciting new approaches to learning. When these technologies are misused by students they can be very disruptive to teaching and learning and in some cases cause harm.

Wollongong West Public School acknowledges that students may need to be in the possession of a mobile telephone at school or school organized activities for reasons relating to their safety traveling to or from school. However this will require written permission from parents.

Taking photographs or videos while at school or engaged in school-related activities by students may only occur if there is a sound reason for the photography. Depending on the particular circumstances and purpose of the photography, the permission of staff, parent/carer or student must be obtained before photographs or videos can be taken.

Portable computer games, MP3 players/iPods, cameras or similar electronic devices or valuable items are not permitted at 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. Students that bring them to school do so at their own risk.
- The student is required to hand in their mobile telephone at the beginning of the school day at the office and then collect it at the end of the school day.
- Students must not use mobile telephones or other devices to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school.
- Students must not use mobile telephones or other devices to threaten, bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other date transfer system available.

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

- Detention or other appropriate consequences as determined by the school’s Student Welfare and Discipline Policy
- Confiscation of the mobile phone or other multi media device until such time as the parent or caregiver is able to attend the school to collect the device.
- Other disciplinary action, that may include suspension or referral to police, in cases where students bully, threaten or harass other students or staff via the mobile telephone or other personal communication devices 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 as a result of an emergency, they are required to call the school office on 42292096 and a message will be sent immediately to the student.
- If a student needs to make emergency contact with anyone, they can do so through the school office.