



## Use of Mobile Phones and Other Smart Devices Policy

In line with the Queensland government's, mobile phones 'away for the day' policy, **mobile phones are not permitted** at Isis District State High School **during the nominated hours of the school day, including lunch breaks**. This also includes instances where students are required to leave the school campus for school representation or curriculum purposes, including, but not limited to, excursions, cultural events, sporting or physical activities, and/or school representative endeavours. (In the case of off campus excursions and events, staff may give students permission to take and use their mobile phones to inform parents of arrival and departure times, or other relevant information deemed by the staff member in charge to be appropriate and necessary use of personal mobile phones).

Furthermore, if the Principal is made aware that these devices have been used to capture and/or distribute and/or upload to an app or website, images taken at school, or at a school event, without consent and/or contain violent and/or other inappropriate images, appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken. Additionally, steps will be taken to seek removal of the recorded material and any distribution.

Personal devices brought to and used at school are done so at their owners' risk. No liability will be accepted by the school in the event of loss, theft or damage to any device. (The school may consider cases when it can be clearly established beyond doubt that damage resulted from deliberate negligence by Department of Education personnel).

Should a student bring a mobile phone to school for purposes of communication before and after school, the device should be **switched off and 'out of sight'** during school hours.

If a student needs to make a phone call during the day, they must ask for permission from the school office staff and either use a school telephone, or use their mobile phone under the supervision of office staff. Likewise, parents wishing to contact their student during school hours, should do so through the school office.

If students choose to breach this policy by accessing their mobile phones during the nominated hours of the school day, or without staff instruction during off campus excursions;

- the staff member involved will instruct the student to cease that action, de-activate the device and hand it in to the school administration office. Parents/Carers will be informed of the breach via SMS. The student can collect the phone at the end of the school day.
- When there are continuing breaches of this requirement, parents/carers will be required to collect the device.
- Where breaches of this *Mobile Phones and Other Smart Devices Policy* either continues to occur beyond these levels or is so serious it is considered serious misconduct, consequences as described in the *Code of Conduct for Students* may occur (including consideration of suspension from school).

### **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES ARRANGEMENT**

- Students who require the use of a personal technology device in circumstances that would contravene this policy (for example, to assist with a medical condition or other disability or for a special project) should negotiate a special circumstances arrangement with the Deputy Principal or Principal.

The Department of Education is working closely with schools to refine the new 'no mobile phones in schools' policy to ensure consistency across all state secondary schools in Queensland. If any details of this policy change, the school will notify students and parents accordingly.