

Acceptable Use Policy For Student Use of Mobile Electronic/Communication Technology

1. Purpose

Tintinara Area School has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones and other means of mobile electronic communication (referred to as mobile phones in this document) that provides teachers, students and their parents/caregivers with guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of mobile phones during school hours. In order for students to carry a mobile phone during school hours, students and their parents or caregivers must first read, understand and agree to the Acceptable Use Policy.

It must be clearly understood that this policy applies to School use, as student mobile phones are strictly prohibited on all camps/excursions, unless there are special circumstances sanctioned by the Principal or nominee.

2. Rationale

2.1 Personal safety and security

Tintinara Area School accepts that parents give their children mobile phones as a form of protection or when travel arrangements may need to be made, for example, after sports training. **However, the best scenario is not to bring a mobile phone to school at all, unless parents/carers decide that it is essential for the student to have one with them for use out of school hours.**

2.2 Responsibility

It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile phones onto school grounds to adhere to the guidelines outlined in this document. Permission to have a mobile phone at Tintinara Area School while under the school's supervision is contingent upon permission in the form of a signed copy of this policy.

2.3. The Front Office

Parents/caregivers are reminded that the Front Office at the school remains the most appropriate point of contact. Contact through the Front Office will ensure your child is reached quickly, and assisted in an appropriate way.

2.4 Unacceptable Uses

Mobile phones are to be switched off during school hours (that is, normally between 8:30am and 3:30pm). There will be no exceptions to this part of the policy, unless appropriate negotiation with a staff member has taken place.

Students infringing this rule will have their mobile phone confiscated (Level 1 consequence). It will be taken to a secure place within the school and the student may collect the mobile phone at the end of the day. Any repeat infringement will result in forfeiture of the privilege of the student to bring a mobile phone to school for a period of time to be determined by the Principal or nominee (Level 2 consequence).

Parents/Carers will be kept informed.

2.5 Theft or damage

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing mobile phones that are lost, stolen or damaged whilst on school premises or at school sponsored functions. Neither does the school accept responsibility for students who lose or have their mobile phone stolen while travelling to and from school.

It is strongly advised that students use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones. Students must keep their password/pin numbers confidential.

PLEASE NOTE: if a student brings a mobile phone to school, it must be kept in their locker (preferable with lock), or the student's school bag. Mobile phones must not be carried around in student's pockets or pencil case etc during school hours.

2.6 Inappropriate conduct

- a) Any student caught using a mobile phone to cheat in tests or assessments will face disciplinary action in line with the School's Student Behaviour Management Policy. Any student who uses vulgar, derogatory or obscene language while using a mobile phone will face disciplinary action in line with the School's Student Behaviour Management Policy.
- b) It should be noted *it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person*. In such incidences, it may be considered appropriate by the school to involve the police. Hence, students with mobile phones must not engage in personal attacks, harass another person, or post private information about another person using SMS messages, taking/sending photos or objectionable images, and phone calls.

Infringement under section 2.6(b) may result in the matter being referred to the police. In such a case, the parents/carers will be informed as a matter of urgency.

Adopted Tintinara Area School Governing Council 27th October 2008. REVIEW : OCTOBER 2009

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION

I have read and understood the above information about appropriate use of mobile phones at Tintinara Area School and I understand that this form will be kept on file at the school and that the details may be used (and shared with a third party, if necessary) to assist to identify a phone should the need arise (eg. if lost, or if the phone is being used inappropriately).

I understand that by signing this document I agree to the terms outlined above.

I give my child permission to carry a mobile phone to Tintinara Area School and understand that my child will be responsible for ensuring that the mobile phone is used appropriately and correctly while under the school's supervision, as outlined in this document. I recognise the school accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.

Parent name (print).....	Student name (print)
Parent signature	Mobile phone number.....
Date	Student signature.....
	Date.....