



2022 PHONE POLICY

HACKHAM WEST SCHOOL

Wangka Hackham Piipawardli

OUTLINE

The Governing Council and Staff of Hackham West R-7 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 devices by children has become a useful tool for families to keep in contact with each other in such circumstances.

The Staff and Governing Council also acknowledge, that the use of mobile devices (including phones, iPads and watches) for communication while children are at school during the hours of 8.30am and 3.00pm, and in situations where they are cared for by the school out of normal school hours, is not necessary. In these circumstances both parents and students have access to each other through the normal communication channels at school.

Parents can ring and get 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 essential that the parent speak with the child directly. Similarly, children can use the school phone to contact parents if required or when directed by their teacher.

Staff also acknowledge the use of mobile devices within the classroom context as deemed appropriate by teachers. As part of our Digital Learning focus at the school, we value the use of mobile devices as tools to enhance student learning. This however does not provide students with added access to the messaging features of these devices.

It is up to parents to determine when it is appropriate for the child to bring a mobile device to school.

EXPECTATIONS

STUDENTS

Students are encouraged to leave their phones at home.

Mobile phones are brought to school at entirely the student's risk. The school will not be involved in disputes and/or investigations over damage, loss or theft.

Phones must be handed to the classroom teacher or leadership at the beginning of the day.

Due to privacy considerations, phone cameras cannot be used whilst at school.

Phones are not to be taken on excursions or camps.

As phones are to be handed to their classroom teacher or leadership at the beginning of the day, they cannot be used as music player or cameras throughout the day.

Students breaching the policy will be subject to the normal student behaviour management consequences. The student will be instructed to pass the phone to the leadership team and the parent will be asked to collect the phone from leadership.

PARENTS

Reinforce that phones are always to be kept secure with their teacher or leadership staff during the school day.

Ensure inappropriate material is not stored on the phone.

Parents are not to contact students during the school day by mobile phone. If parents need to urgently contact a student, they should follow normal procedure and contact the school on the landline. Students will then be contacted and supported as necessary.

STAFF

All classroom teachers are to follow this procedure within their classroom, on excursions or on camps.

Staff are to request any phones to be handed to them each morning.

Staff are to inform leadership if they notice a phone has not been handed to them.

POLICY BREACHES

Students breaching this policy will be subject to the normal restorative practices defined in our Developing Positive Behaviour

Policy. The student's teacher and leadership will support the student to make a strong choice.

The student will be instructed to pass the phone to the leadership team for the rest of the day.

If procedures continue to not be followed, the phone will be confiscated from the student and the parent will be asked to collect the phone from the leadership team.

Further breaches of the policy will result in further practices being followed from our Developing Positive Behavior Policy. This may include loss of break times, take homes, suspensions or exclusions.

AGREEMENT

Return this section to your teacher

I agree to follow the mobile phone policy concerning the use of mobile phones at Hackham West R-7 School

Student Name: _____ Signed: _____

Parent / Caregiver Name: _____ Signed: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

