



Guidelines for Mobile Phones and Smart Devices at School

Eleebana Public School

For the purposes of this implementation policy, 'smart devices' is a term that refers to any personal digital device, including tablets, iPads and smart watches that can make or receive calls or texts; take photos and videos or access the internet.

Please note, this does not include the basic pedometer fitness watches like the Garmin Vivofit

Purpose

Eleebana Public School discourages students from bringing mobile phones and smart devices to school. These communication devices cause disruption in classrooms and the playground and can be used inappropriately to access social media and take photos without permission. This can cause distress and breach the privacy of others.

Eleebana Public School staff understand that there are times when a mobile phone or a smart device can provide a sense of safety and security for students in transit or attending after school activities. If a parent feels it is necessary for their child to carry a device (mobile phone or smart device) to school, then we ask that they understand and follow the guidelines below.

Responsibility for Mobile Phones and Smart Devices

- Students bring their phones/smart devices to school at their own risk. The school is not responsible for phones/smart devices that are lost, stolen or damaged at school or when students are travelling to and from school.

Guidelines for appropriate Phone and Smart Device usage

- Mobile phones and smart devices are to be kept in the student's bag at all times including, before school, recess and lunchtime. Phones and smart devices must be switched off, or in airplane mode, on silent without vibrations.
- Phones and devices are not to be used in the classroom, the playground or incursions/excursions for checking/sending text messages, accessing games or the internet, taking or sharing photos or videos or for any of other purpose.
- It is important mobile phones/smart devices are not used by students or families to bypass school procedures in relation to school-parent contact. Any messages for students are managed through the front office by calling (02) 49468927.

- Phones and smart devices are not to be used by students to call home in the event of a mishap at school. These events are to be dealt with by the school. Parents will be contacted as required and will be kept informed of events impacting their child.
- Phones and smart devices are not to be used to harass, bully or intimidate students or staff. Breaches will be dealt with as per the school's Discipline Policy
- Any use of mobile phones and smart devices by a student, which is in breach of these rules, may lead to the confiscation of the device. In this instance, parents will be notified and confiscated devices will need to be collected from an executive teacher by the student's parent or guardian at the end of the day.

Supporting Policies

- DoE Student use of digital devices and online services Policy
- DoE CESE Impact of mobile digital device in schools
- DoE Legal Bulletin 8 Claims for loss of or damage to personal property...
- DoE Legal Bulletin 35 Misuse of Technology in Schools