



MOBILE PHONE POLICY

The mobile phone can provide an effective and quick means of communication and many students now have access to them. Burra Community School acknowledges that mobile phones can serve to improve personal security and safety. Mobile phones, furthermore, must be handled in a mature and responsible fashion and **NOT interfere with or hinder personal wellbeing or the education process.**

Burra Community School also believes that the responsible use of a mobile phone extends beyond the school environment and is applicable at all times within the general community. Mobile phones, however, can, and do, present a serious risk to student safety, wellbeing and learning. These risks are clearly defined under Department for Education Legislative Framework that includes Child Protection Curriculum Strategy, HSW – Psychological Health and the Duty of Care responsibilities of education staff outlined in the Education Act. The use of a mobile phone can pose a threat to student safety, wellbeing and learning when it is used to:

- Text or phone a person that disrupts their learning or that of others
- Bully or harass another student
- Incite other people to take inappropriate action against another person or group
- Take unauthorised photographs or video footage that breaches Privacy Act laws
- Access confidential, private, offensive, inappropriate or illegal material and distribute it to others
- Gain an unfair advantage in learning (e.g. used to access information during a test or examination)

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person, that the sending of inappropriate material using mobile phones is an offence under the Telecommunications Act, and that the taking of unauthorised photographs or video footage may be in breach of Privacy Act Laws. As such the school reserves the right to involve the police where such mobile phone usage occurs.

Policy Aims:

1. Safeguard and promote the wellbeing and learning of all school members.
2. Teach responsible and mature mobile phone use.
3. Discourage and eliminate the inappropriate use of mobile phones in the school environment.

General Implementation:

1. Students should not use a mobile phone at **any time** during the normal school day (8.45am to 3.20pm).
2. Parents/Caregivers who need to contact their son/daughter during the school day are asked to do so by contacting the school on its landline number – 88922007. Conversely, students are able to seek staff permission to use school phones that are based in the Front Office if an **urgent** need arises.
3. We are aware that parents/carers **may** provide their child with a phone for use while travelling to and from school. If a student requires the use of a mobile phone before or after school, it must be kept turned off and secured preferably in their locker during the school day.
4. If the possession and use of a mobile phone is required for a **specific safety issue or matter of urgency** by any student, then this request must be made by a parent or

caregiver to the Principal, Deputy Principal or an approved delegate. The school reserves the right to reject such a request. (If your child has a phone for this purpose, it is recommended that you take out insurance on the accidental loss of or damage to the phone. In this instance, students are required to have the phone switched off whilst at school and stored in a secure place).

5. Phones left in student's locker or bags are at their own risk.
6. Whilst participating in a day excursion, school camp or an official out of hour's school event, mobile phones may only be used with the written prior permission of the teacher in charge of the activity.
7. The camera function on a mobile phone **must not** be used by any unauthorised person as the inappropriate or unsanctioned use of a camera may breach the Privacy Act Laws and may serve to inflame or incite inappropriate behaviours.
8. Students are strongly discouraged from bringing mobile phones to school and those who do, do so at their own risk. The security of all personal property is the responsibility of the owner. The school accepts no liability in the event of loss, theft or damage to personal property.
9. Staff also have a responsibility to model responsible mobile phone use whilst carrying out their duties. Staff are permitted to carry and use their phone whilst on a day excursion, school camp, yard duty, for teaching and learning purposes, or an official out of hours event.

Consequences for Policy Breaches:

1. 1st Offence: The mobile phone is confiscated and parent / guardian contacted.
2. 2nd Offence: The mobile phone is confiscated, lunch time detention and parents contacted to collect.
3. 3rd Offence: Mobile phone confiscated, internal suspension and parent contacted to collect
4. Subsequent offences: enactment of school student behaviour policy at the discretion of leadership.

Other References:

- BCS - Student Behaviour Management Policy and Bullying and Harassment policy including Cyber Bullying and Harassment

Found something offensive online that the website will not take down?

Report it to the [Australian Communications and Media Authority](#)

Report offensive content:

- [Australian Communications and Media Authority](#)

Found something that may be an online scam or fraud?

Report it to [Scamwatch](#)

Other useful websites:

www.staysmartonline.gov.au

www.cybersmartkids.com.au

Report it to the [Police](#)

This policy was last ratified by the Governing Council in November 2022

(also in consultation with staff and SRC)

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

To be reviewed in 2025