



## **Policy for the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices UPDATED MAY 2020**

This policy covers student use of mobile phones & other electronic devices (personal or school provided) and online services in school-related settings, specifically on school grounds, at school-related activities and outside of school where there is a clear and close connection between the school and the conduct of students.

*“Other electronic devices” refers to any personal portable device including iPads, tablet computers, smartwatches, MP3 players, iPods, cameras, gaming consoles.*

The use of mobile phones & other devices by primary school students must be restricted during class, at recess and at lunch unless approved by a teacher or principal for an educational purpose, where use forms part of a reasonable adjustment for student learning and wellbeing or where an exemption has been granted for other reasons.

Digital devices and online services are an important part of everyday life, shaping the way children and young people learn, communicate, work and play. Learning environments, at school and at home, should support students to develop technological, social and emotional competencies. This support should maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of digital environments, and prepare students for life beyond school.

Student use of digital devices and online services in schools is intended to enhance learning, wellbeing and educational attainment. Digital devices and online services can help students develop the skills needed for digital literacy, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, interpersonal relationships and collaboration.

Ramsgate Public School acknowledges that students may need to be in possession of a mobile phone at school for reasons relating to their safety in travelling to and from school.

Taking photographs or videos while at school or engaged in school-related activities by students may only occur if there is a sound reason for the photography. Depending on the particular circumstances and purpose of the photography, the permission of staff, parent/carer or student may be required.

### **Student Responsibilities**

- Phones and other electronic devices must be switched off at all times whilst at school
- No electronic devices are to be taken on excursions with the exception of cameras and only with the permission of supervising teachers
- Phones must not be used to photograph, record, or video at school or on school excursions or activities, unless approved by a teacher
- Parents and children must be aware that they are responsible for the security of their device at all times. They can be in bags or in zipped pockets. It is recommended that children do not inform others that they are carrying valuables in their bags

- The student must take full responsibility for their own device. The school will not be responsible for their loss, theft or damage. Students who bring them to school do so at their own risk
- Students will use their mobile phone/electronic device in a way which reflects the core values being taught in schools, including the values of respect, responsibility, care and fairness
- Students must not use mobile phones or other devices to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school. Such activities may incur disciplinary action including suspension
- Students must not use mobile phones or other devices to threaten, bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the device or for any illegal activity. Such activities may incur disciplinary action including suspension

**Improper use of mobile phones or other electronic devices may result in:**

- Detention or other appropriate disciplinary measure as determined by the school's disciplinary policy
- Loss of privilege to bring the phone/device to school for a period of time or indefinitely if there is a recurring breach
- The student being required to hand in their device at the beginning of the school day for collection when the student goes home
- Confiscation of the device until such time as their parent or caregiver is able to attend school to collect the device
- Other disciplinary action in cases where students have bullied, threatened or harassed other students or staff via the device or where the device has been used to take photographs or display inappropriate material

**Emergency Contact**

If a parent or caregiver needs to contact a student at school as a result of an emergency, they are required to call the school's main office and a message will be sent immediately to the student.

If a student needs to make emergency contact with anyone they can do so through the school's main office.