

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Intent

All classes must function in a manner where students and teachers are engaged in teaching and learning without unnecessary distraction. It is also the right of every student and staff member to be free of bullying and harassment through text messaging and the use of a mobile phone.

Summary

The use of mobile phones in class is not permitted. Any student failing to comply with a direction from staff will be viewed as not complying and will be dealt with according to the 'Student Code of Conduct' as a major consequence.

Policy

- The school will not tolerate students using mobile phones inappropriately
- The school accepts NO responsibility in the event of the loss, theft or damage of any device
- Students are not permitted to bring or use mobile phones or ear phones in class unless under the strict agreement with a documented personalised learning plan and at the discretion of the teacher
- It is important that students display courtesy, consideration and respect for others whenever they are using a mobile phone outside of class times
- Mobile phones should not be used where disruption will result
- Mobile phones must be switched off (not on silent/vibrate mode) and out of sight during classes
- Mobile phones are not to be taken inside toilets and change rooms. Students should surrender the phone temporarily to the teacher during class if needing to attend the toilet or place them in a school bag before exiting to the bathroom
- Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any student who photographs or films other individuals without their consent, or who sends harassing or threatening text messages. Students who breach this will be dealt with in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct
- Students who use/share video imagery to entertain, motivate or incite violence at school will be treated in a similar manner to those who commit the violent act.
- Students are responsible for the safe keeping of their electronic devices
- The use of mobile phones is not permitted during in-school assessment. Any breach of this will be managed through the assessment policy process under 'cheating / breach of conditions'
- Students who use digital media either at school or after hours in a negative way which affects the school's good order, management or reputation or negatively impacts on a student or staff member will face disciplinary action
- Devices potentially containing evidence of criminal offences may be reported to the police. In such cases police may take possession of such devices for investigation purposes and students and parents will be advised to contact the Queensland Police Service (QPS) directly. The school may confiscate devices for collection by the QPS where necessary
- The use of any form of media or digital device to photograph, record, intimidate, alter images of, distribute images or audio of, or harass any member of staff will most likely lead to exclusion from school.

It is **unacceptable** for students at Merrimac State High School to:

- use a mobile phone or other devices in an unlawful manner
- use a mobile phone in technology-free designated spaces or times
- download, distribute or publish offensive messages or pictures

- use obscene, inflammatory, racist, discriminatory or derogatory language
- use language and/or threats of violence that may amount to bullying and/or harassment, or even stalking
- insult, harass or attack others or use obscene or abusive language
- ignore teacher directions for the use of social media, online email and internet chat
- send chain letters or spam email (junk mail)
- knowingly download viruses or any other programs capable of breaching the department's network security
- use in-phone cameras anywhere a normal camera would be considered inappropriate, such as in change rooms, toilets and classrooms
- invade someone's privacy or workplace by recording conversations or daily activities and/or the further distribution (e.g. forwarding, texting, uploading, Bluetooth use etc.) of such material
- use a mobile phone (including those with Bluetooth functionality) to cheat during exams or assessments
- take into or use mobile devices at exams or during class assessment
- participate in advertising the school, students, school logo, school uniform or school buildings on social media in any form
- 'Like', share or create any form of social media negatively identifying the school, its staff or facilities in any way
- Threats to distribute or actions of distribution of an 'intimate image' as defined by the Criminal Code (Non-consensual Sharing of Intimate Images) Amendment Act 2019 will most likely lead to exclusion.

Procedures

Mobile phones used inappropriately at any time may be confiscated and stored in the Student Services safe for the remainder of the day. They may be retrieved from Student Services after 3.00 pm. Repeat offenders may lose the right to bring mobile phones to school as it is considered that they are deliberately failing to follow school rules.