

**KARIONG PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Student Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy**



**Introduction**

Mobile phones and electronic devices (such as portable computer games, iPods, iPads, tablets and other similar devices), when used appropriately, offer students and their parents many advantages in terms of ease of communication and a sense of personal safety. However, mobile phones and electronic devices have the capacity to have a negative impact on the learning environment and the safety and wellbeing of students. This policy aims to establish guidelines for the use of student mobile phones and electronic devices within the school environment and to outline the responsibilities of staff, parents and students.

**Kariong Public School:**

- has a mobile phone and electronic device free playground
- only allows the use of personal electronic devices for student learning needs at the discretion of the classroom teacher, in discussion with parents or caregivers
- provides designated times for students to engage with technology
- expects mobile phones are turned off and kept in school bags throughout the school day
- accepts no responsibility for the security of personal electronic devices and the procedures for inappropriate use of mobile phones will apply to these devices.

**What Is Inappropriate Use?**

The use of mobile phones in schools should not automatically be of concern. It is only if a mobile phone or electronic device is used inappropriately that action will be necessary.

Inappropriate use of a mobile phone or electronic device includes:

- using it in a way that disrupts or is likely to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school or institute
- bullying, intimidating or otherwise harassing others through SMS or text messaging or through photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the phone
- recording of conversations, including lessons, without the knowledge and permission of the teacher or those involved in the conversation [in accordance with the policy on Recording and Other Listening Devices]
- downloading or otherwise accessing inappropriate material on the internet such as child abuse or pornographic or other offensive material
- filming of fights or other criminal behaviour involving students that occur at school or the institute, during school activities or while on the way to or from school
- using it in a way that threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or wellbeing of any person
- use that is in breach of any law.

**Actions Taken for Inappropriate Use**

If students use mobile phones and electronic devices inappropriately, the Principal has the right to take action. Depending on the circumstances, action can include:

- banning students from using mobile phones and electronic devices during the course of the school day
- confiscating mobile phones and electronic devices from individual students
- in the case of schools, requiring students to hand in their mobile phone or electronic device to designated school staff at the beginning of the school day for collection when students go home
- applying student disciplinary provisions
- reporting the matter to the police.

**Responsibility for Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices**

Students bring mobile phones or electronic devices to school at their own risk – the school will not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to mobile phones or electronic devices, or for investigating loss or damage. Students must not lend a phone to another student for use as a phone, for text messaging or for use as a camera or video recording device. The student who owns the phone will be held responsible for its use. As previously stated, personal electronic devices may only be brought to school when previously arranged by a teacher and the same procedures for inappropriate use will apply.

**Introduction and Reinforcement of Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy**

- Teachers will discuss this policy with classes
- When inappropriate use is detected it will be dealt with in terms of the policy, thereby reinforcing the policy
- The community will be made aware of the policy in the weekly newsletter
- The policy will be published in the handbook and given to all new enrolments.