

# FREEMANS REACH PUBLIC SCHOOL

## Mobile Devices School Procedure

January 2023



### Rationale

The use of mobile devices in schools should not automatically be of concern. It is only if a mobile device is used inappropriately that action may be necessary. Mobile devices include but are not limited to: mobile phones, SMART watches, tablets that allow communication, recording and photographic options.

### Rationale

Freemans Reach Primary School recognises that some parents/guardians request that their child/ren bring a mobile device to school for before and after school safety/security reasons. Mobile devices are permitted on school grounds but only within the parameters of the policy as stated below.

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that:

- mobile device use does not disrupt the teaching and learning environment for any student or teacher;
- potential risks to student safety and well-being posed by inappropriate use of mobile devices can be identified and addressed;
- students, staff and parents have a clear understanding of school guidelines and personal responsibilities related to the appropriate use of mobile phones.

### Responsibility

- Freemans Reach PS strongly discourages students from bringing mobile devices to school. However, in the instance where parents feel it is necessary for their child to have a phone in their possession at school, it is the responsibility of the student to abide by the appropriate use guidelines outlined in this document.
- The decision to provide a mobile device to their children should be made by parents or guardians who should be aware that their child is bringing this device to school.
- It is the responsibility of all staff, students and parents to comply with the appropriate use of mobile phones guidelines as outlined in this document and Department of Education policy.

***The school accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged phones. The school also accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their phones stolen whilst travelling to and from school.***

Guidelines for....

### ***Students***

- In general, students should not bring valuable items to school, as they can be easily lost or stolen, which is often distressful for a primary age child.
- Students must sign their device/s into the school office upon arrival to school and can sign their device/s out at the conclusion of the school day.
- There are no reasons why a student needs to have in their possession or use a mobile device during the school day.
- Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.
- Students are not permitted to bring mobile devices on school excursions and overnight camps under any circumstances. School staff will not be held responsible for the security of devices should this guideline be breached. In instances where students need to contact their parents this will be organised by supervising staff.

### **Parents and Community Members**

- At all official school functions, during meetings or when assisting in classrooms mobile devices should be switched off or put on 'silent'.

### ***Sanctions***

In line with our Student Welfare Policy, for students who fail to follow these guidelines, the following sanctions may be applied:

- Confiscation of the mobile device (handed back to student or parent at the end of the day).
- Communication with parents/guardians regarding mobile device use at school.
- A student being banned from bringing a mobile device onto the school grounds.
- Detentions or in-school suspension.

### **Unacceptable Use of Mobile Devices**

Using mobile devices in an inappropriate manner is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Inappropriate uses of mobile devices include but are not limited to:

- Using a mobile device at a time that will disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school;
- Making calls or sending messages with the intent to bully, harass or threaten another person;
- Recording of conversations, including lessons, without the knowledge and permission of eth teacher or those involved in the conversation;
- Using mobile devices to take photographs of other people without their consent;
- Filming of fights or other criminal behaviour involving students that occur at the school, during school activities or while on the way to and from school.
- Using obscene, derogatory or socially unacceptable language while using a mobile device;
- Using mobile devices to receive download and display inappropriate photographs or other material.
- Using mobile devices 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.

***It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile device to menace, harass or offend another person. The school may consider it appropriate to involve the police.***

### **Related Technology**

- Related technology such as portable computer games, iPods and other similar devices are not to be brought to school under any circumstances. The school accepts no responsibility for the security of these items and the procedures applying to the inappropriate use of mobile devices will apply equally to these devices.

### **Exemptions**

- Exemptions of this policy can only be approved by the principal and then only in exceptional circumstances.

### **Implementation of this Policy**

- Teachers will discuss this policy with students to ensure they have a clear understanding of the guidelines and procedures.
- The community will be made aware of this policy through the newsletter, at P&C meetings and the policy will be posted on the school's website.

- The policy will be made clear to all students and their parents seeking enrolment at Freemans Reach Public School.

#### **Ratification and Review**

- This policy was developed and ratified by the Freemans Reach PS school staff and community in 2016 and updated in 2019. It will be reviewed when deemed necessary by the school Principal and executive.