



**Government
of South Australia**

Department for Education

Presented to
Governing Council

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Council 31/5/21

2021

Renmark West Primary School Mobile Phone and Digital Device Policy



Respect • Honesty • Responsibility

Use of mobile phones and personal devices

Purpose

This policy provides direction to students, staff and families about managing mobile phones and other digital devices that students choose to bring to school. Digital devices include, but are not limited to, smart watches, mobile phones, tablets or laptops. This policy applies while students are at school, or attending an authorised school activity such as an excursion, during school hours.

Mobile phone use for primary school students

The department's position is that primary aged students cannot use their mobile phones and personal devices at school during school hours. The department and the school recognise that there are legitimate reasons for students to bring a mobile phone or personal device to school. This may include:

- to ensure their safety while travelling
- so that parents can contact them outside of school hours.

During the school day, students are not permitted to access or use their mobile phone or wearable device with messaging, internet or Bluetooth capabilities. Students must switch off or mute their devices before storing them at the front office at the beginning of the school day. They will not be able to access their device until the end of the school day. At the end of the day, students must collect their phone from the front office and place it in their bag out of sight. At no time, are they permitted to share pictures or information on their phone with other students.

All calls to student during school hours are to be made via the front office. When on camps and excursions, students may be contacted through the school mobile phone.

The school does not accept responsibility for lost or damaged student electrical devices and reiterates that students bring their electrical devices at their own risk.

Storage of personal devices

Student mobile phone or wearable devices with messaging, internet or Bluetooth capabilities are stored in the front office in a filing system designed solely for student electrical devices.

If the student does not comply

Children found not complying with the mobile phone policy will have their device confiscated and placed in the office storage filing system until the end of day. Parent's of the child will be contacted and be made aware that their child has been non-compliant with the school mobile phone policy. Misuse of the mobile phones before and after school on school grounds, will result in confiscation and need to be collected by a parent / caregiver.

Roles and responsibilities

Principal

Make sure:

- this policy is clearly communicated and accessible to all students, staff, and families
- there is a process for regular review of the policy
- secure storage is provided for student's personal devices that are handed in to our front office.
- processes are in place for monitoring internet and school network use by all members of the school community.

Enforce the policy and responses to instances of non-compliance.

Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.

Consider requests for exemptions from the policy from parents on a case-by-case basis. Make sure that approved exemptions are documented and that relevant staff are informed about students' exemptions.

Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.

School staff

Deliver learning opportunities and maintain a safe and productive learning environment.

Respond to instances of non-compliance in line with the school's policy.

Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.

Make sure that any student personal devices handed in for their care are stored in a secure location and are returned to the student (or their parent).

Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.

Students

Comply with the requirements of the school's policy and follow all reasonable directions from the Principal and school staff.

If permitted to use a mobile phone or personal device in line with an exemption under this policy, do so in a safe, responsible and respectful way and support peers to do the same.

Communicate respectfully with others and do not use a mobile phone or other personal device to bully, harass or threaten another person.

Respect others' rights to privacy and do not take photos, film or audio records of other people without their knowledge or permission.

Parents

Support the implementation of the school's policy, including the consequences for non-compliance with the policy.

Use the school's formal communication channels in all instances to communicate with the school (including where a student requires early collection from school). Encourage their child to always report to a school staff member in the first instance if they become unwell or experience an issue at school.

Recognise the important role they play in supporting their child to use their mobile phone (or other personal device) in a safe, responsible and respectful way.

Communication and review

Outline:

- The Mobile phone and digital device policy was presented to Governing Council
- Key elements of the Policy were included in the school Newsletter
- Students have been made aware of policy changes through a middle and upper primary meeting
- The policy is available on our school website.
- The policy will be reviewed bi-annually with the next review due May 2023