



WAMBERAL

Public School

Lea Rd Wamberal NSW 2260 P: 02 4384 1111 F: 02 4385 2478 E: wamberal-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Policy for the Use of Mobile Phones and Other Portable Communication Devices by Students

Introduction

Wamberal Public School acknowledges that some students may need to take a mobile phone or other portable communication device to school for a variety of reasons, including enhancing safety in travelling to and from school.

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure the mobile phone / portable communication device is switched off and stored safely during school hours and is only used in accordance with this policy.

The taking of photographs or videos by students while at school or engaged in school-related activities may only occur with prior permission from staff. Permission may also be required from parents and carers.

The school discipline policy applies to the use of mobile phones and other portable communication devices and may apply outside of school hours and off school premises where there is a clear and close connection between the school and the conduct of students.

Where students need to bring a mobile telephone or other portable communication device to school:

- Any mobile phone or portable communication device **must** be clearly labelled with the student's name.
- Written parental permission is required for any mobile phones or portable communication devices that a student needs to bring to school.
- Students are discouraged from having a mobile phone or portable communication device with them at school unless it is required for communication after school hours (or teacher authorised school activities).
- The school or staff will not be responsible for any loss, theft or damage of mobile phones or portable communication devices. Students who bring mobile phones or portable communication devices to school do so at their own risk and must take full responsibility for the mobile phone or portable communication device.
- Students are responsible for the care and safe storage of the mobile phone or portable communication device during the day. Mobile phones or other portable communication devices are to be **switched off** during school hours. Mobile phones or portable communication devices may be signed in at the school office for storage during the day at a parent's or student's request. Whilst every care is made, the school does not accept responsibility for mobile phones or portable communication devices stored in the office.
- Students will only use their mobile phone or portable communication device in a way which reflects the expectations of the NSW Department of Education's Behaviour Code for Students and Wamberal Public School's expectations of being Safe Respectful Learners.

- Students must not use mobile telephones or portable communication devices to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school. All mobile phones or portable communication devices must be switched off and not used or accessed during school hours unless part of agreed school learning. Use of mobile phones or portable communication devices during school hours (unless part of an authorised learning activity) may incur disciplinary action, including suspension.
- Students must not use mobile telephones or portable communication devices to threaten, bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any SMS, MMS, text message, or social media.
- Student use of devices whilst travelling to and from school is expected to remain consistent with this policy.
- Inappropriate use of mobile phones or portable communication devices with or without cameras is managed consistent with the school discipline policy and may include suspension from school, consistent with the NSW Department of Education Suspension and Expulsion of School Students Procedures.

Overnight Excursions:

- Students are encouraged not to bring or use mobile phones or portable communication devices whilst on overnight school excursions. Where a student requires a mobile phone or portable communication device for the purpose of a camera, it needs to be non-operational as a phone (e.g. no SIM card installed and no access to WiFi). Any mobile phones or portable communication devices brought on overnight excursions will require signed parental agreement and permission.

Improper use of mobile telephones or portable communication devices may result in:

- Appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the school's discipline policy.
- The surrender of the mobile telephone or portable communication device for collection at the end of the school day, or until such time as the parent or carer is able to attend the school to collect the device.

Emergency Contact

- In emergencies, parents or carers are to call the school administration office. School staff will relay the message to the student.
- In case of emergencies whilst a student is on an excursion, parents or carers are to contact the school administration office during office hours or on the advertised official school after hours contact numbers in cases of overnight excursions.
- Mobile devices are not to be used for direct communication purposes during school hours or whilst a student is on a school event or excursion.

Related Technology

- The expectations applying to the inappropriate use and security of mobile phones and portable communication devices, apply equally to the inappropriate use of other technology.



WAMBERAL Public School

Lea Rd Wamberal NSW 2260 P: 02 4384 1111 F: 02 4385 2478 E: wamberal-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Mobile Phone / Portable Communication Device Consent to Bring to School

My child..... of class requires a mobile phone / portable communication device for use outside of school hours and therefore needs to have the mobile phone / portable communication device at Wamberal P.S. during school hours.

I have read and understand the school policy for the **Use of Mobile Phones and Other Portable Communication Devices by Students** whilst at school and/or school activities and give my consent to the device being brought to school when required.

If a mobile phone / portable communication device is brought to school, my child will be responsible for switching off the mobile phone or portable communication device during school hours, and will (please tick one box below):

A) leave the mobile phone / portable communication device at the school office during the school day (signing it in and out each day).

or

B) be responsible for the proper care and storage of the mobile phone / portable communication device.

.....
(Parent / carer name and signature)

.....
Date