



Electronic Devices Policy

Aims:

At North Ingle School we aim to have clear and consistent guidelines that:

- provide a safe and harassment free teaching and learning environment
- are clearly understood by students, families, staff, visitors and volunteers
- are fair and reasonable to all parties involved
- meet the needs of the school community

The following policy applies to all student, staff, visitors, volunteers and contractors and is based on a set of values shared by teaching staff and the Governing Council.

Rationale:

The use of telecommunications technology has now become the norm rather than the exception for many of our families. Students, parents and teachers are accessing mobile phones and other electronic devices in increasing numbers. Our core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an environment free from unnecessary distraction or disruption. Electronic devices (eg mobile phones, MP3 players, I pods etc) brought into the classroom can disrupt valuable learning time, and can be used inappropriately causing technical problems to our computer networks. Therefore the school discourages the bringing of electronic devices to school by students but we accept there are times when it might be deemed important. We are therefore prepared to allow them on the premises only within the parameters of this policy and only when it is deemed necessary by parents.

Expectations:

Students:

- A written request/notification be submitted by parents to the Principal explaining the need for the electronic device to be at school.
- Electronic devices are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school will not be involved in disputes and/or investigations over damage, loss or theft.
- Students are not to have electronic devices in their possession during school hours. The device needs to be handed to the school office staff at the beginning of the day and collected by the students at the end of the day.

If these procedures have not been followed, the electronic device will be confiscated from the student and the parent will be asked to collect it from the school office.

To deal with any emergencies the school has phones installed throughout. If parents need to urgently contact a student they should follow the normal procedure and contact the school office so that staff there can contact and support the student as necessary.

Staff:

- Electronic devices are brought to school at the owner's risk. Neither the school nor DETE can accept responsibility for any loss, damage or theft, or for investigating such.
- Personal mobile phones are to be switched off in class and office areas and during scheduled school meetings.
- Teaching and support staff have access to school mobile phones when required for excursions and camps.

Parents, visitors and contractors:

All users are to switch their phones to mute or discreet when in public areas, including meetings, interviews, assemblies and classrooms.

All parents and visitors are to take and make mobile calls outside teaching and learning areas.

Exemptions from the expectations of this policy can only be approved by the Principal and then only in exceptional circumstances.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle and was last amended on 11/9/07