

North Perth Primary School Mobile Phone Policy

Rationale

A number of children now own mobile phones and as they have posed some problems in the school environment, this policy aims to clarify procedure.

It is essential that all communication between students and anyone outside the school, during the school day be made with full knowledge of the school.

Procedures

The school staff would prefer it if mobile phones were not brought to school.

If for some reason a parent wishes their child to have a mobile whilst at school the parents, child and school must enter into a written agreement which requires the following:

1. The dangers of mobile phone use will be made known to the children and parents.
2. The phone is to be switched off during the school day.
3. The phone is to be left in the school bag.
4. The child is not to advertise its presence to others.
5. The school will not be held responsible for its care.
6. If a child has a mobile phone and there is no agreement, the parent will be contacted.

Background

As with many technologies there are numerous benefits but also some hidden risks. Parents will be made aware of the following potential dangers if they enter into an agreement to allow their child to have a mobile phone during school hours:

- The mobile phone could be viewed as a toy or gimmick.
- Children could be contacted at random by strangers.
- Mobile marketing companies can spam mobile phones with advertising messages.
- Mobile phones can become a 'safety blanket' for children and be relied upon too much for help. Children need to learn other strategies for getting assistance like going to a Safety House, rather than being over-reliant on the mobile phone.
- Mobile phones can be a distraction when used during school time.
- Bullying and harassment can occur through text messaging.
- Children may become vulnerable to others wishing to steal the phone or memory card.
- Children might not secure the phone with passwords. This can potentially lead to other people amassing expensive bills if the phone is misplaced or stolen.

From Australian Government NetAlert Limited

<http://www.netalert.net.au/01501-What-are-the-Dangers-of-Mobile-Phones-for-Children.asp>

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Attachment: Mobile Phone Agreement.



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North Perth Primary School
Mobile Phone Agreement

We have read and understood the North Perth Primary Mobile Phone Policy.

We have read, understood and discussed the procedures about mobile phone use at North Perth Primary School and will abide by these procedures.

I understand that if I do not abide by these procedures that the mobile phone will be confiscated and the child will not be allowed to have a mobile phone at school.

We have read and understood the potential dangers of mobile phone use and have discussed these with my child.

Name of child: _____

Child's signature: _____

Parents name: _____

Parents signature _____

Date _____