



Mobile Phone and Personal Device Policy

Rationale

In 2023, the Qld Government mandated a ban on mobile phones in all QLD State Schools for 2024. The use of mobile phones and other student-owned personal technology devices i.e., iPods, iPads, smart watches, airpods, Bluetooth devices including speakers, are not permitted whilst on school grounds, or attending off-campus school events including excursions**. ** Individual medical circumstances are considered and restricted exemptions may be given, at the principal's discretion.

*****Please note - The school and school staff will not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to technology devices nor will they investigate loss or damage.*****

*****Students who choose to bring mobile phones or personal technology devices to school, do so at their own risk and are responsible for ensuring their safety and security and that they remain locked in school provided pouches at all times on school grounds.*****

Mobile phones and personal technology devices are not necessary for learning and provide a distraction for students and teachers, and are proven to prevent learning in many situations. Yeronga SHS is a 1:1 laptop school; laptops are the identified technology device for use at school.

Expectations

Mobile phones must be switched off and locked in school provided pouches at all times, on school grounds, or whilst attending selected school events, including before and after school, during class times and at breaks. Pouches must be kept in school bags at all times.

If a device (including headphones and/or smart watches) is sighted or heard, the student will be required to hand in their device to a member of the **Yeronga Leadership Team** who will collect the phone from the classroom or playground. Upon submission of the device, the **teacher** will lodge a OneSchool incident referral as a **technology violation with a referral to the JS/MS/SS HOD**. The student will then collect their device from that member of the Yeronga Leadership Team at the end of the day at an agreed time and location.

Refusal to hand over the device to a member of the Yeronga Leadership Team will result in the member of the Yeronga Leadership Team lodging a OneSchool incident report for **defiance** which will lead to a likely suspension from school.

Students who repeatedly defy the Yeronga State High School Mobile Phone Policy will face disciplinary consequences which could include after-school detention, withdrawal from class or suspension. Repeat offenders may be required to hand in their devices daily to their JS/MS/SS HOD or DP. At the discretion of the school, parents or caregivers may be required to collect the device from the school.

Parents/Guardians wishing to urgently contact their students, or vice versa, are required to do so through the school office on 3249 1400. Students will have access to the school phone at administration for emergency use only. Parents can use email to contact their child which can be accessed on the school laptop at any time.

Our School's Code of Conduct outlines the consequences of irresponsible use of devices including the filming, photographing and distributing of content obtained without consent.

The Commonwealth's Criminal Code Act 1995, section 4.7.4.17 notes that it is an offence for a person to use 'a carriage service to menace, harass or cause offence.'

The Commonwealth's Criminal Code Act 1995, section 4.7.4.15 notes that it is an offence for a person to use 'a carriage service to make a threat.'

The Commonwealth's Crimes Act 1914, part VIIB, section 85ZE notes that it is an offence for 'a person to knowingly or recklessly use a telecommunications service supplied by a carrier in such a way as would be regarded by reasonable persons being, in all the circumstances, offensive.'

The sending of images is also covered by various State and Commonwealth laws that prevent the publication of material that is objectionable, unclassified or unsuitable for minors.