Mobile phones with offensive screen savers, offensive messages or offensive images will be confiscated and parents contacted.

Text messages, or photos to bully or harass any person in the school is the same as any other type of bullying or harassment. Such use of a mobile phone will lead to consequences according to the school’s behaviour code.

Mobile phones must not be used by students to photograph or video anyone. Images will be deleted immediately by the child in front of a Leadership member. Phones will be confiscated if used for filming/photographing, and will not be returned to the student, but handed to their parent/caregiver.

Students posting images of other Vale Park students and staff during school based activities on social media will be asked to immediately delete the post and/or image in front of a leadership member. The phone will not be returned to the student, but handed to their parent/caregiver.

If students bring any electronic media to school, they do so at their own risk– the school WILL NOT accept liability for loss or damage.

Staff

Staff are encouraged to take their mobile phones on duty and on excursions with them for emergency contact with Front Office.

Date approved: 2016

Date review: 2018
Rationale

Electronic media are very popular amongst young people, but can also be expensive to replace if they are lost. For this reason we discourage students from bringing mobile phones or other electrical equipment to school.

*Chrome Books exempted.

Whilst students are at school, they come under our duty of care. Part of this duty of care is to ensure that electronic media are not used inappropriately and therefore do not interfere with teaching and learning, nor are part of any harassment.

As part of our duty of care, our school needs to be aware of and involved in any parent/caregiver communication with their children whilst students are at school.

Many parent/caregivers feel that a mobile phone is an essential part of their duty of care. We are therefore prepared to allow them on premises within the guidelines of this policy.

Expectations

Students:

- IPod, IPad, electronic games are left at home
- If a mobile phone is brought to school it must be given to the class teacher for safe keeping (teacher permitting). The student will collect it after school
- Technology devices with cameras will not be used to record any images on school grounds at any time, including outside of school hour whole school events.
- Mobile phones are to be switched off during school hours (8.40 am - 3.05 pm). This means that students will not receive or make calls/ SMS during this time. Exemptions may be granted in the case of a critical situation. This should involve parent communication and should be authorised by the Principal
- The school requires that parent/caregivers wishing to contact their children whilst they are at school, phone the school (8261 3733) and not use their children’s mobile phones for contact

Remember that students are responsible for their own actions outside of school hours

- Students can be suspended or excluded by the school for behaviour that threatens the safety or wellbeing of a student, staff or another person associated with the school, through the use of social media, even if this behaviour occurred outside of school hours or off-site

Students must not contact their parent/ caregivers (this includes recess and lunch times) without informing appropriate staff at Vale Park (e.g. if they feel ill). Vale Park staff will contact parents.

- In emergency situations, parents can contact the school and messages will be passed on to students. Similarly, students will be able to use a school phone in emergency situations.

- If students are found to be using a mobile phone during school time, it will be taken to the Front Office. Parents may be contacted by staff to either:

  - Clarify parent knowledge that the child has phone at school
  - Give permission for student to collect phone at he end of the day
  - Arrange that the parent will collect phone on behalf of child