



ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

Rationale

In recent years, there have been several significant court cases in which students and ex-students of Queensland schools have been charged and convicted of offences involving the use or misuse of electronic devices.

The offences all involved the unauthorized recording and distribution, via the internet or by other means, of audio and video material containing acts of bullying, intimidation, physical violence, or cyber bullying.

It is necessary for the safety and protection of students and staff that a clearly-stated set of rules exist and is communicated to students regarding the use of electronic devices within and outside the school, before, during and after school, at any time while in school uniform, and involving any other students, staff or members of the public.

Aim

- To allow students/staff access to the digital world
- To provide a workplace for staff and students that is safe and free from any unwanted intrusion into privacy or student learning time.
- To alert students of the legal consequences of the misuse of electronic devices.
- To encourage appropriate digital citizenship.
- To reduce the risk of students facing legal consequences for the misuse of electronic devices.

Policy Guidelines / Student Responsibilities

- It is the responsibility of students to display courtesy, consideration and respect for others whenever they are using a mobile phone or electronic device;
- The use of mobile phone or electronic devices in any manner or place that is disruptive to the normal routine of the school is not permitted;
- In class, all student mobile phones and electronic equipment are to be switched off, unless these devices are being used in a teacher-directed activity to enhance learning; Texting or receiving text messages during lessons is not permitted;
- Student's use of mobile phones or electronic equipment before or after school, or during recess and lunch breaks must comply with the **Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students**.
- Students must negotiate with relevant staff when they are wishing to use these devices in special circumstances;
- The primary contact for parents with students during school hours should still be via the school office for student accountability.
- The misuse of electronic devices can attract legal penalties and consequences including potential police involvement.
- The recording of sounds or taking video or still images of people inside or outside the classroom, including changing rooms, toilets and the school playground, is not permitted.
- Displaying images or playing sounds recorded inside or outside the classroom, of students or teachers, without their permission, on any electronic device or social media or other website is not permitted.
- The use of electronic devices to bully or harass is not permitted as per the schools Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students.
- Students should refrain from using headphones in a manner which is not Respectful (i.e. headphone in when speaking to another person), Responsible (i.e. when crossing the road) or interfering in positive learning and Results (i.e. without permission from a teacher)

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ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY continued.

Consequences for Policy Breach

- Major breaches of the mobile phones and electronic device policy will require students to hand in their device to Deputy Principals, with collection/return to occur at the end of the school day provided the device is not required for further investigation.
- Invasion of privacy through the recording of personal conversations or daily activities and/or the further distribution (e.g. via Multi Media Messaging Service, Bluetooth) of such material will result in disciplinary action according to the Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students; it also contravenes the Invasion of Privacy Act 1971.
- The sending of text messages or posting to websites/social media of data that contains obscene language and/or threats of violence may amount to bullying and/or harassment or even stalking, and will be subject to disciplinary action according to the Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students and, potentially, police investigation.
- Continued breaches of the policy may result in the restriction of the students access to external devices

RECORDING VOICE AND IMAGES

Every member of the school community should feel confident about participating fully and frankly in all aspects of school life without concern that their personal privacy is being invaded by them being recorded without knowledge or consent.

We uphold the value of trust and the right to privacy at Maryborough State High School. Students using personal technology devices to record inappropriate behaviours or incidents (such as vandalism, bullying, fighting, staged fighting, pranks etc.) for the purpose of dissemination among the student body or outside the school, by any means (including distribution by phone or internet posting) builds a culture of distrust and disharmony.

Students must not record images anywhere that recording would not reasonably be considered appropriate (e.g. in change rooms, toilets or any other place where a reasonable person would expect to be afforded privacy)

Recording of events in class is not permitted unless express consent is provided by the class teacher.

A student at school who used a personal technology device to record private conversations, ordinary school activities (apart from social functions like graduation ceremonies) or violent, illegal or embarrassing matter capable of bringing the school into public disrepute is considered to be in breach of this policy.

Even where consent is obtained for such recording, the school will not tolerate images or sound captured by personal technology devices on the school premises or elsewhere being disseminated to others, if it is done for the purpose of causing embarrassment to individuals or the school, for the purpose of bullying or harassment, including racial and sexual harassment, or where without such intent a reasonable person would conclude that such outcomes may have or will occur.

Students involved in:

- Recording
- Disseminating material (through text messaging, display, internet uploading etc.)

And/or

- Knowingly being a subject of a recording; will be subject to discipline, including suspension and recommendation for exclusion.

Students should note that the recording or dissemination of images that are considered indecent (such as nudity or sexual acts involving children), is against the law and if detected by the school will result in referral to the Queensland Police Service.

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MARYBOROUGH

STATE HIGH SCHOOL

An Independent Public School – Est 1881

ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY continued.

TEXT COMMUNICATION

The sending of text messages that contain obscene language and/or threats of violence may amount to bullying and/or harassment or even stalking, and will be subject the sender to discipline and possible referral to the Queensland Police Service. Students receiving such text messages at school should ensure they keep the message as evidence and bring the matter to the attention of the school office.

RECORDING PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS AND THE INVASION OF PRIVACY ACT 1971

It is important that all members of the school community understand that under the Invasion of Privacy Act 1971, 'a person is guilty of an offence against this Act if the person uses a listening device to overhear, record, monitor or listen to a private conversation. 'It is also an offence under the Act for a person who has overheard, recorded, monitored or listened to a conversation to which s/he is not a party to publish or communicate the substance or meaning of the conversation to others. Students need to understand that some conversations are private and therefore to overhear, record, monitor or listen to such private conversations may be in breach of this Act, unless consent to the recording is appropriately obtained.

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