

Mount Gravatt State School

Use of Personal Technology Devices* at School

This policy reflects the importance the school places on students being safe, respectful and responsible whenever they are using personal technology devices.

Personal Technology Devices at School

Students should not bring valuable personal technology devices like mobile phones, cameras, video cameras or MP3 players, iPods, or video/computer games to school as there is a risk of damage or theft. No responsibility is taken for the security of these devices at school.

Should the devices be necessary, a letter of permission from the parent must be submitted and such devices must be handed in at the school office upon arrival at school. Devices can then be picked up from the office upon departure. ***Please note that we recommend these devices NOT be brought to school.***

Should students be found with said devices or similar not immediately handed in, the device will be confiscated by school staff and may be collected at the end of the day at the office. Breaches of this prohibition may result in discipline.

Confiscation

Permitted personal technology devices used contrary to this policy on school premises will be confiscated by school staff. They will be made available for collection from the school office at the end of the school day unless required to be kept for purposes of disciplinary investigation, when it will only be returned in the presence of a parent / guardian.

Devices potentially containing evidence of criminal offences may be reported to the police. In such cases police may take possession of such devices for investigation purposes and students and parents will be advised to contact Queensland Police Service directly.

Students who have a personal technology device confiscated more than once will have to have the device collected by a parent/guardian and will not be permitted to have a Personal Technology Device at school for at least one month, or longer if deemed necessary by the Principal.

Personal Technology Device Etiquette

Bringing Personal Technology Devices to school is strongly discouraged by the school because of the potential for theft and general distraction and/or disruption with them. However, if they are at school (and not handed in at the office), they must be turned off and out of sight.

Personal Technology Devices are not to be used during the school day without written authorisation from the Principal.

Personal Technology Devices used in class during exams or class assessment will not only incur disciplinary action for breach of policy, but will also be considered as an assumption of cheating.

Recording Voice / Images

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

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

Students should obtain permission from their teacher for any recording (still, film or voice) done in class, on school grounds or during school activities.

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

A student at school who uses 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 when consent is obtained for such recording, the school will not tolerate images or sound captured by Personal Technology Devices on school premises or elsewhere being disseminated to others, if it is done for the purpose of bullying or harassment, including racial or sexual harassment, or where without such intent a reasonable person would conclude that such outcomes may have or will occur.

APPENDIX 1

Students involved in:

- recording; and/or
- disseminating material (through text messaging, display, internet etc.) and /or
- knowingly being the subject of a recording

will be considered in breach of the policy.

Breach of this policy may be subject to discipline (including suspension and recommendation for exclusion).

Text Communication

The sending of text messages that contain obscene language and/or threats of violence may account to bullying or harassment and will subject the sender to discipline and possible referral to QPS. Students receiving such text messages should ensure they keep the message as evidence and bring the matter to the attention of the Principal.

Special Circumstances

Students who require the use of a Personal Technology Device in circumstances that would contravene this policy (for example to assist with a medical condition or other disability or for a special project) should negotiate a special circumstance arrangement with the Principal.

Additional Notes

Teachers will discuss mobile phone etiquette and cyber safety with students as part of our social skills and health programs.

Cyber bullying (bullying via text, telephone, internet, other electronic means) will be dealt with via school processes for bullying.

**Personal Technology Devices include, but is not limited to, games devices (such as Portable gaming devices), tamagotchis®, laptop computers, PDAs, Blackberrys®, cameras andd or voice recording devices, mobile telephones, ipods®, and devices of similar nature.*