

## DALYELLUP COLLEGE MOBILE PHONE and IPOD POLICY

### 1. **Rationale**

- Mobile phones have become an important part of our modern lifestyle. Dalyellup College understands there are times when possession of a mobile phone can provide a sense of safety and security, as well as enabling urgent calls or contact.
- There are concerns about the disruptive element of mobile phones in classrooms and about the use of SMS to bully others. All students should be able to come to school feeling safe and secure.
- iPods are not seen as an essential item for school activities.
- Both devices also have the capacity to take photos, video or record information that may contravene the Department Policy on Mobile Phone Use, The Privacy Act and Telecommunications Act.

### 2. **Purpose**

- The purpose of this policy is to clarify staff and student responsibilities with regard to mobile phone and iPod usage.
- Dalyellup College aims to provide a happy, safe and stimulating learning environment for all students. This policy will ensure that mobile phone usage does not disrupt this learning environment or contravene Departmental Policy, the Privacy Act or Telecommunications Act.

### 3. **Implementation**

#### **Students**

- In general, students should not bring items of value to school (mobile phones, iPods, sporting equipment etc.) as they can be easily lost or stolen, which is a very distressful event for a child.
- If a mobile phone is required for reasons of specific safety then parents must negotiate with the principal on how best to manage this. Usually this will involve the child delivering the phone to the office for safe keeping and picking it up again at the end of the school day. This will be for urgent situations only and responsibility resides with the student. Students bring mobile phones to school at their own risk.
- Students bringing mobile phones to school without prior arrangement with the school administrators will have the phone confiscated. Parents will be contacted and the phone will be returned at the end of the day.
- Students should NOT bring iPods to school and these will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day.
- In the event of a mobile phone or iPod being confiscated on 3 occasions, the parent will be phoned by the school administration and asked to collect the mobile phone or iPod from the front office.
- It is the school's policy to pass on important messages to students throughout the day. This can be done by phoning the office and requesting that the message be relayed to the child. Similarly, if a child needs to contact a parent urgently, this can be effectively managed by the school.
- Mobile phones may be taken on excursions and camps for emergency contact only as determined by the teacher in charge and must not be used for any other purpose. Otherwise mobile phones and iPods should not be taken on excursions and camps.
- Any student found using a mobile phone or iPod in an inappropriate manner (bullying, harassment, intimidation etc.) will have the phone confiscated. Parents will be contacted to negotiate the return of the phone. The student will be subject to the school's appropriate discipline code including the possibility of suspension and the involvement of police.

#### **Staff**

- Mobile phones are to be switched off / silent profile during class sessions, playground duty and meetings. In the case of an expected urgent call, please advise the school office who will arrange for you to receive the call.
- The school's mobile phones will be available for staff to use during excursions.
- Parents or students should contact staff through the school office. Do not give out your *personal* mobile phone number.

#### **Parents**

- Parents are required to turn phones off when volunteering in classrooms or when attending meetings / assemblies etc. so that there are no disruptions to the school's programs.