

# Communication Devices Statement

Personal Mobile Media Communication Devices (PMMCD) –Mobile Phones, Personal Digital Assistants, iPods, MP3 Players, Portable Computer Games and similar devices.

## **Definition:**

Communication devices are any mobile services which connect via mobile cell technology, wireless or blue tooth and can communicate via voice, SMS, or access and send video, still shot, music, pod casts and can access the internet.

## **Rationale:**

**The use of telecommunications technology has become the norm rather than the exception for many of our families. Students, parents and teachers are accessing this facility in increasing numbers. Our core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an environment free from unnecessary distraction, disruption or harassment.**

**This statement aims to establish guidelines for the use of these devices within the school environment and to set out the responsibility of students, staff and parents.**

## Personal Mobile Media Communication Devices (PMMCD)

**Mobile phones (when used appropriately) offer students and their parents many advantages in terms of ease of communication and a sense of personal safety. However, mobile phones and other media communication devices have the capacity to have a negative impact on the learning environment and the safety and well being of the students. Our aim is to ensure that communications are legitimate, appropriate and do not interrupt students learning time.**

## **STUDENTS**

Responsibilities:

1. PMMCDs are brought to school at the owner's risk. Neither the school nor DECS accepts responsibility for any loss or damage or for investigating such.
2. PMMCDs are to be switched off in class and during scheduled school meetings
3. Students must not lend PMMCDs to another student for use as a phone, for text messaging or for use as a camera or video recording device. The student who owns the device will be held responsible for its use.
4. It is only acceptable to lend a mobile phone to another student in an emergency.
5. PMMCDs should not be used to create or send messages, text, still shots, video, pod casts and music to other students while at school;
6. The Internet should not be accessed via these portable mobile media devices while at school, as they do not present students with a filtered multimedia information environment.
7. PMMCDs should not be used to listen to music, pod casts or watch video while at school.

[A student pamphlet of appropriate usage will be made available at the beginning of the year, to all students.](#)

Inappropriate use of PMMCDs will include students using them to

- bully,
- intimidate
- or otherwise harass other people

through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the device.

*This type of misuse will see the confiscation of the device and handed to parents. The student's behaviour will be managed under the School Behaviour Management Policy.*

## **STAFF**

Responsibilities:

- To inform students of this policy and to monitor/oversee the students use of personal mobile media communication devices while at school.
- PMMCDs are brought to school at the owner's risk. Neither the school nor DECS accepts responsibility for any loss or damage or for investigating such.
- PMMCDs are to be switched off in class and during scheduled school meetings.
- Teaching and support staff have communication devices on and numbers known by the school when on camp and excursions.

## **PARENTS, VISITORS and CONTRACTORS**

Responsibilities:

- Parents are to
  - read and explain the statement with their child/ren,
  - explain the child's rights and responsibilities i.e.
    - Others right to feel safe
    - Personal responsibility to use devices wisely and
  - monitor their child/ren's access and use of PMMCDs while they are at school (e.g. via the communication provider's billing system)
- Parents, visitors and contractors are to take mobile calls outside teaching and learning areas.
- Parents, visitors and contractors are to switch their communication devices to mute or discreet when in public areas including meetings, interviews and classrooms.

## **Further Information**

Australian Communications and Media Authority

[www.acma.gov.au/mobilesforkids](http://www.acma.gov.au/mobilesforkids)

The Australian Mobile Telephone Communications Association

<http://www.amta.org.au>