Background

Blackwater State High School accepts that in today’s society, a significant number of parents / caregivers wish their children to have mobile phones with them as a safety measure when travelling to and from school. However, once the student is on the school grounds they are under the protection and guidance of teaching and administrative staff, any contact with students must be made through the school's main office.

The school reserves the right to regulate the use of mobile phones & other electronic devices in order to maintain its integrity as an institution dedicated to learning, safety and care for all of its members.

Mobile telephones and other electronic equipment at the school or school related activities are at their owners' risk. No liability will be accepted by the school in the event of loss, theft or damage to any device unless it can be established that the loss, theft or damage resulted from the department's negligence.

Guidelines

1. All outside calls to a student should come through the main office and students wishing to make external phone calls should do so at the office.

2. For the equity of all students at Blackwater State High School, the following guidelines will apply:
   - Mobile phones & other electronic devices are to be TURNED OFF while on school property.
   - Mobile phones & other electronic devices (including IPods & MP3 players) are to be stored securely OUT OF SIGHT.

3. Where a breach of the these guidelines occur, Blackwater State High School staff are directed to confiscate the device and turn them into the main office where on the first occasion they can be collected by the student at 3:00PM.

4. Continuing breaches of these guidelines will result in the confiscation of the device for a week on the second breach and longer on third and continuing breaches. Ultimately, students may also be suspended for continuing breaches of this policy.

5. Refusal to follow teacher instruction – 1st offence referral to Admin – detention, 2nd offence referral to Admin possible suspension

6. If a student has a special reason why the mobile phone needs to be used during the day, he/she should see a member of the administration.

7. Students wishing to use these devices in special circumstances should negotiate arrangements with the Principal.

8. In-phone cameras are not to be used anywhere. If students support inappropriate behaviour such as fighting, by taking photos or video footage this may be seen as incitement of the behaviour and will be seen as a serious breach of the school's behaviour code, incurring a serious consequence.

9. In all cases where misuse of Mobile Phones is deemed as an offence against morality and/or constitutes a very serious breach of the school’s code of conduct, Administration will impose appropriate sanctions.

10. Text messages of a harassing or threatening nature may breach the Federal Communication Act and will be seen as a serious breach of the school’s behaviour code.