



## **Mobile Phone Policy: Fair Hill PS**

Mobile phones are a part of modern society and Fair Hill PS accepts that most students will possess such phones. They can be a useful tool especially where issues of safety are concerned and the school recognises that in certain circumstances some students may have a legitimate need to bring a mobile phone with them to school. However teachers and students have a right to teach and to learn in a classroom environment that is safe and is free from interruptions by mobile phones and other telecommunication devices. Staff and students will undertake not to have mobile phones switched on in class. A parent can make a submission for a child to have a mobile phone with them on a permanent or temporary basis. The principal will make the decision on the strength of the case. Generally children will not have phones in school with them.

Fair Hill School has procedures in place for students to use the school telephone system in the event of an emergency during the school day. Similarly, parents/guardians can contact their son or daughter during the school day by telephoning the school reception desk on 02897532553 and a message will be relayed as soon as possible. During school hours all communication between parents and students should take place through the school reception personnel.

It is not permissible for a student, who has brought a mobile phone to school, to have the phone switched on at any time during the school day. They can turn it on during the time it has been designated for use eg after

school to arrange collection by parent. At all other times mobile phones must be switched off and alarm functions disabled. Silent or discreet settings are not acceptable. If a student's phone is found to be switched on, it will be removed by the teacher and placed in a secure location. The phone will be returned to the student at the end of the school day. It should be noted that usage of mobile phones includes the sending and receiving of text messages or data.

Fair Hill Primary School accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are brought into school and undertakes no responsibility to investigate their misplacement, damage, loss or theft.

Fair Hill Primary School accepts no responsibility for health effects (potential or actual) resulting from mobile phone use.

Pupils may not use mobile phones during field trips, excursions or other associated school activities. Fair Hill Primary School accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that have been brought on such trips, excursions or activities and undertakes no responsibility to investigate their misplacement, damage, loss or theft.

Arrangements will be in place for communication with the school and/or home in the case of an emergency.

Mobile phones can allow access to the Internet and/or have the ability to transmit and receive pictures/images and/or have Bluetooth capabilities. . Such mobile phones have the potential of being an invasion of privacy and their improper use may be in breach of the school's Child Protection Policy. If a mobile phone is used for any of these activities it will be immediately confiscated, placed in a secure location and **will be returned to the student's parents/guardians** after they have contacted the school and arranged an appointment to meet with the Principal, a Vice Principal.

This policy will be updated when the senior management team feel that there needs to be a major change to the policy.

May 2017