



Mobile Phone and Devices Policy

Emu Heights Public School

Purpose and Rationale

The widespread ownership of mobile phones and other digital devices such as smart watches among students requires that school administrators, teachers, students, and parents take steps to ensure that such mobile devices are used responsibly at school. This Acceptable Use Policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving mobile phones can be clearly identified and addressed, ensuring the benefits that mobile phones provide (such as increased safety) can continue to be enjoyed by our students.

Emu Heights Public School accepts that parents give their children mobile phones for personal security and safety. Parents may also be concerned about children travelling alone on public transport or commuting to and from school. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently.

The Acceptable Use Policy for mobile devices does not apply to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities. Mobile phones are not permitted at these activities. When representing the school at sporting activities, the same responsibilities and consequences will be applied as at school.

Responsibilities – Students and Parents

Mobile phones are personal property and any student bringing one to school does so at their own risk. Students and their parents or guardians should read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy before students are permitted to bring their mobile phones to school. It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile devices to school to abide by the guidelines outlined in Emu Heights Public School's Acceptable Use Policy. Parents should complete the EHPS Mobile phone permission note that is

The school accepts that parents give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety.

The decision to provide a mobile phone to their child should be made by parents or guardians.

Parents should be aware if their child brings a mobile phone (or other mobile device) to school they are required to complete the attached permission note.

Acceptable Uses of Mobile Phones at School

Using mobiles responsibly at school:

Students who bring a mobile device to school must turn it off before entering the school grounds and leave it locked away in their bag to prevent loss or theft. Phones should only be switched on after leaving the school grounds. If contact is needed to be made with a parent it should come from the school office. Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office (47351290 or 47351077) remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.

Mobile phones or other mobile devices should not be used in any manner or place that is disruptive to the normal routine of the school. Students should not use mobile phones to make calls, send text messages, access

the internet, take photos or use other applications during school time.

Mobile phones must not disrupt classroom lessons with ringtones or beeping. Except when mobile devices are being used as part of the lesson plan or with the express permission of a teacher, they should be placed into “silent mode” and kept out of sight in students’ school bags during classroom lessons and school activities to minimise distractions.

Texting is a distraction in the classroom and is not permitted during school hours.

Mobile devices are not to be used in changing rooms or toilets or used in any situation that may cause embarrassment or discomfort to their fellow students, staff or visitors to the school.

Cyberbullying:

Using mobile devices to bully (also known as cyberbullying) and threaten other students is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. In some cases, it can constitute criminal behaviour.

Students and parents are reminded that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person and almost all calls, text messages and emails can be traced.

Use of Camera and Video functions:

Mobile phones or other mobile devices must not be used to take photos/video of any other student or teacher without their consent. It is also prohibited to upload photos/video of other students/teachers to social media websites or email photos/videos to others if doing so would embarrass, humiliate or cause discomfort to the subject of the photo/video.

Theft or damage:

Emu Heights Public School accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile devices.

Emu Heights Public School accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their mobile devices stolen while travelling to and from school.

To avoid disputes and assist in finding owners, younger students may want to mark their mobile device clearly with their names or an identifying sticker. All students are advised to have their name and another contact number stored on the phone so that it can be more easily returned if lost.

It is strongly advised that students use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones (eg by other students, or if

stolen). Students must keep their password/pin numbers confidential.

Mobile devices that are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to the school office. Parents are also encouraged to download the ‘Find My Phone’ app, or similar, to assist in tracking a student’s phone.

If a mobile phone is lost or stolen, parents and students are advised to report the loss/theft to their mobile carrier so that they can de-activate the SIM card and block the mobile phone from use across all networks.

Consequences of unacceptable and/or inappropriate use

Students using mobile devices to bully other students will face disciplinary action as sanctioned by the Principal.

Students who infringe the guidelines and rules set out in Emu Heights Public School’s Acceptable Use Policy will have their mobile devices confiscated by teachers and the infringement will be dealt with under the School’s Student Welfare and Discipline Policy. The mobile device will be stored in a secure place within the school and returned at the end of the school day and the student’s parent(s) will be informed. Any photos or videos taken at school by the student will be deleted under the supervision of an Assistant Principal and the Principal.

Appropriate arrangements would then be made for the parents to collect the mobile device.

Repeated infringements may result in the withdrawal of the agreement to allow the student to bring the mobile telephone or digital device to school.

Failure to heed the rules set out in Emu Heights Public School’s Acceptable Use Policy may result in an alleged incident being referred to the police for investigation. In such cases, the parent or guardian would be notified immediately.

Further Information

Emu Heights Public School
Wedmore Rd
Emu Heights NSW 2750
T 47 351290

<http://www.emuheights-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

Emu Heights Public School Student Mobile Phone Authority



I give permission for my child _____ of class _____ to have a mobile phone at school.

I understand that mobile phones are personal property and any student bringing one to school does so at their own risk.

I understand that the school does not accept responsibility for the security of the phone.

I will inform the school of any changes to this authority.

I have read the Emu Heights PS Student Mobile Phone Policy and Procedures.

I have discussed the procedures with my child.

Child's Name _____

Class _____

Parent /Carer's Name _____

Signed _____

Date _____

I have read and /or my parents have discussed the Emu Heights PS Student Mobile Phone Policy and Procedures and agree to follow it all times.

Signed (student) _____

Student name _____

Date _____

Consequences for Breaching this Agreement

Cases where students fail to turn their phone off at the gate and /or use their phone during the school day, will be managed in line with the School's Student Welfare and Discipline Policy.

The phone will be confiscated, locked away, and returned to the student at 3pm.

Any photos or videos taken at school by the student will need to be deleted at the end of the day under the supervision of an Assistant Principal and the Principal. Parents will be informed of their child's breach of this policy.