

MOBILE PHONE POLICY



1. Purpose

1.1 The increased ownership of mobile phones requires Emmanuel Christian Community School to take steps to ensure that mobile phones are used responsibly. This Acceptable Use Policy is designed to ensure that potential issues (such as mobile etiquette) 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.

Emmanuel Christian Community School has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones that provides teachers, students and parents guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of mobile phones during school hours.

In order for students to carry a mobile phone during school hours, students and their parents or guardians must first read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy.

The Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones also applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.

2. Rationale

Personal safety and security

Emmanuel Christian Community School accepts that parents give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also ever-increasing concern about children travelling alone on public transport or commuting long distances to school. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can speak with their child quickly at any time.

3. Responsibility

It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile phones onto school premises to adhere to the guidelines outlined in this document.

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

Parents should be aware if their child takes a mobile phone onto school premises.

Permission to have a mobile phone at school/while under the school's supervision is contingent upon parent/guardian permission in the form of a signed copy of this policy. Parents/guardians may revoke approval at any time.

4. Acceptable Uses

Use of phones is only permitted before 8am, and after 3.15pm.

No use of phones during class or between periods

Students may use their phone to contact (text or call) a parent only under staff supervision e.g. teacher, duty teacher or office staff.

Upon surveying students, most admitted that the need to contact a parent during school hours is rare and the need for supervision was understood. The responsibility for phone safety is completely on the student. Phones should be kept in their locker, not pocket.

Staff members should not keep or be responsible for students' phones during the day. If a student is found using their phone outside of permitted circumstances, their phone will be confiscated by the teacher and stored securely in the office until the end of the day. Only the student's parent/guardian may collect the phone from the office.

5. Unacceptable Uses

Unless express permission is granted to the contrary, mobile phones must not be used to make calls, send SMS messages, surf the internet, take photos or any other application during school time.

Should there be an unacceptable use of the mobile phone repeated, disruptions to lessons caused by a mobile phone, the responsible student may face disciplinary actions as sanctioned by the Principal.

6. Theft or damage

All students are required to mark their mobile phone clearly with their names.

Students who bring a mobile phone onto school premises should leave it locked away in their locker/bag as soon as they arrive. In order to reduce the risk of theft during school hours, students who carry mobile phones are advised to keep them well concealed and not 'advertise' they have them.

Mobile phones which are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to front office reception.

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.

The school accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school.

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 phones and/or passwords may not be shared.

7. Inappropriate conduct

Any student/s caught using a mobile phone to cheat in exams or assessments will face disciplinary actions as sanctioned by the Principal or Deputy Principal Students.

Any student who uses vulgar, derogatory, or obscene language while using a mobile phone will face disciplinary actions as sanctioned by the Principal or Deputy Principal Students.

Students with mobile phones may not engage in personal attacks, harass another person, or post private information about another person using SMS messages, taking/sending photos or objectionable images, and phone calls. Students using mobile phones to bully other students will face disciplinary actions as sanctioned by the Principal or Deputy Principal Students.

* It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, if action as sanctioned by the Principal or the Deputy Principal Students is deemed ineffective, as with all such incidents, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the police.

8. Parent/Guardian Permission

I have read and understand the above information about appropriate use of mobile phones at Emmanuel Christian Community School and I understand that this form will be kept on file at the school and that the details may be used (and shared with a third party, if necessary) to assist identify a phone should the need arise (eg if lost, or if the phone is being used inappropriately).

I give my child permission to carry a mobile phone to school and understand that my child will be responsible for ensuring that the mobile phone is used appropriately and correctly while under the school's supervision, as outlined in this document.

Parent name (print) _____

Parent signature _____

Date _____

Student name (print) _____

Mobile phone number _____

Student signature _____

Date _____

Teacher name (print) _____

Teacher signature _____

Date _____

If you have comments or suggestions, please contact the Deputy Principal Students.

