

Policy & Procedures – Personal Mobile ICT Devices



Aim

Students often have access to mobile ICT devices (phones, tablets, computers etc.) on a daily basis. During their time on program at Outdoor School we are requiring students to be free from interactions with their personal mobile ICT devices.

Objectives

For Students to:

- Gain an appreciation of not using a personal mobile ICT device during their time at Outdoor School and to reflect on this for the future.
- Examine the physical, social and emotional benefits of not using a personal mobile ICT device during their time at Outdoor School.
- Improve their social skills in a face to face environment with their peers and others.
- Fully engage with their environment without influence from personal mobile ICT devices whilst on program at Outdoor School.
- Connect with their learning at a deeper without influence from personal mobile ICT devices whilst on program at Outdoor School.

Overall:

- Maintain a safe school and reduce any unforeseen implications of inappropriate personal mobile ICT device use.

Implementation

Prior to Attending Outdoor School

- Students and parents will receive a copy of the student and parent hand book (also available on our website) that outlines the processes for having no personal mobile ICT devices at Outdoor School.
- Students and parents will have access to Outdoor Schools' website where a video explaining the schools position on personal mobile ICT devices will be available for viewing.
- The Personal Mobile Devices – Students policy will be available on the website for parents and students to reference.
- Information regarding Outdoor Schools' restrictions on personal mobile ICT devices will be available at any parent information sessions conducted.
- In future maker programs, specific teaching time may be allocated to effectively communicate the school's direction on no personal mobile ICT devices.
- Both students and parents will need to sign the consent form that stipulates the no personal mobile ICT devices position of Outdoor School.
- Outdoor School staff will be available to discuss any parent or student concerns with having no personal mobile devices at Outdoor School.

While Attending a Program at Outdoor School

- **STUDENTS ARE TO LEAVE THEIR PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICES AT HOME, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED AT OUTDOOR SCHOOL.**
- Specific teaching time will be allocated to effectively communicate the school's direction on student personal mobile ICT devices.
- If a student accidentally brings their personal mobile ICT device it will be confiscated, stored in a secure place and then given to the visiting teacher to return to the student at the conclusion of the program.
- There are no locks on the student rooms and thus no capacity to guarantee the security of a mobile device at Outdoor School.
- In the event of an emergency 24-hour phone access to Outdoor School will be provided via the Outdoor School principal or campus principals. This enables any parents or carers needing to communicate with students to do so. Likewise, it will be possible for students to phone parents or carers if required.
- All group teachers carry phones when away from the residential School Site.
- Outdoor School will provide students with the ability to take photos over their time at the school using a dedicated group iPod or camera. These photos will be copied onto a memory stick for distribution and provided to the visiting teachers. There is no need for students to have a camera for the program.

After Attending Outdoor School

- Students will be required to reflect on their time at Outdoor School without their personal mobile ICT devices and how this might influence their lives into the future.
- Any personal mobile ICT devices confiscated will be given to the visiting teacher to return to the student at the conclusion of the program.

Issues

- Where an issue arises concerning personal mobile ICT devices, the school will use a restorative practice conversation to generate an educational opportunity and achieve a workable outcome for all involved.
- Student participation in the program is seen as a high priority and will be treated as such, however student safety is paramount and will not be compromised.

Review cycle and evaluation

This policy was last updated on March 2018 and is scheduled for review in March 2022.

TEACHING AND LEARNING PROCESSES:

Classroom Teaching:

- Define personal mobile devices.
- Establish the part they play in the student's everyday life.
- Acknowledge the difficulties that some may have in not having their device for a time period.
- Go over the many different forms of challenge and how this makes us feel (comfort zones).
- Outline strategies for managing the time without a personal mobile ICT device.
 - Set you accounts up so that people know you won't be available for a defined period.
 - Let people know that you will write a letter and post it to them in the mail.
 - Make some final communications and make them clear with timelines.
- Outline the benefits (as researched) of having time free from personal mobile ICT devices.
- Have any students that are struggling with the position to discuss their concerns with a view to establishing a way forward.
- Remind students of the consent form.

Parent and Student Information Sessions

- Show the web based movie.
- Outline the expectation of no personal mobile ICT devices at Outdoor School.
- Outline Outdoor School's 24 hour contact processes for emergencies.
- Explain how it is possible for students to contact parents or carers if required.
- Test the assumption that all parents are happy with this.
- If any parents have any questions or concerns around the direction take them at the end of the session.
- Explain we don't want to be managing any issues on program, we would much rather be addressing them now.

Staff, Parent & Student Handbook

- Students are to leave their personal mobile devices at home, they are not required at outdoor school.
- Reasons for this are that students become:
 - More engaged with environment.
 - More connected to others around you in a face to face environment.
 - More connected to the content of the curriculum being taught.
 - Outline the benefits (as researched) of having time free from personal mobile ICT devices.
- Any questions contact Outdoor School on 0357541732.

Web based movie

- Outline the expectation of no personal mobile ICT devices at Outdoor School.
- Explain the benefits:
 - More engaged with environment.
 - More connected to others around you in a face to face environment.
 - More connected to the content of the curriculum being taught.
 - Outline the benefits (as researched) of having time free from personal mobile ICT devices.
- Any questions contact Outdoor School on 0357541732.

Reflection Session

- What processes did you use to manage without your personal ICT mobile device?
- How did this initially make you feel?
- How do you feel now without your personal ICT mobile device?
- Plan out your personal ICT mobile device use going forward.
- What benefits do you see with your new use patterns and what barriers do you see to achieving these?