



BALARANG PUBLIC SCHOOL

Principal: **Mrs Anne-Marie Hurley**

Government Road
Oak Flats N.S.W. 2529
Phone: (02) 4256 1846
Fax: (02) 4257 1441
Email: balarang-
p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Policy for the Use of Mobile Phones, Portable Computer Games, MP3 Players/iPods, Cameras and Similar Devices in Schools.

Introduction

There is a range of technology available today including mobile telephones, digital cameras, MP3 players/iPods, ipads, personal digital assistants and other similar devices. Many of these have the potential to be incorporated appropriately into lessons, opening exciting new approaches to learning. However, when these technologies are misused by students they can be very disruptive to teaching and learning, in some cases cause harm and potentially break confidentiality regulations.

Mobile Phones:

Balarang Public School acknowledges that on some occasions students may need to be in possession of a mobile telephone for reasons relating to their safety in travelling to and from school. If there is a need for a student to bring a mobile phone or electronic device a signed letter from parents or caregivers explaining the need for such a device must be supplied. Approval must then be granted by the Principal. A signed letter from parents or caregivers does not guarantee Principal approval.

Upon arrival at school the phone is to be checked in at the school office where it will be turned off and kept for the day. It is the child's responsibility to collect the phone at the end of the day. There should not be any reason to bring expensive ipods/ mp3 players or DS/ games machines to school except for educational purposes.

Parents with an urgent need to be in contact with their child during the day should contact the school office and appropriate steps will be taken to pass on the message.

Cameras:

Taking photographs or videos while at school or when engaged in school-related activities may only occur if there is a sound reason for the photography and permission is given by the school. Depending on the particular circumstances and purpose of the photography, the permission of parent/carer and/or student may be required. Students are not to bring cameras to school without the permission of the school. This may be the case during special events such as excursions or sporting carnivals. Students are never to use mobile phone cameras whilst at school.

MP3 Players, ipods, USB drives etc

Students have regular access to technology via the school's computer system. The school recognises the increasing role of electronic devices in students' lives. However equipment such as MP3 players and ipods are not to be brought to school.

The school's computer network provides each student with their own drive where their work can be saved and accessed from any school computer after they login. The use of USB is permitted at school if its use is directly related to classroom learning tasks. These devices have the potential to be used to share inappropriate material.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the **Agreement for the Use of Mobile Phones, Portable Computer Games, MP3 Players/iPods, Cameras and Similar Devices at School.**

The agreed terms are as follows:

- The device must be named, turned off and handed into the office on arrival at school, where it will be stored in a tote tray;
- It is the responsibility of the student to collect the device after school;
- In the event that the device is not handed in, it may be confiscated by a staff member and it will be the responsibility of a parent or carer to collect it from the office;
- Loss or damage to the device will not responsibility of the school; and
- A new Agreement must be completed at the beginning of each new school term.