Meningie Area School

Acceptable Use Policy
For Student Use of Mobile Electronic/Communication Technology

1 Purpose
Meningie Area School has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones and other means of mobile electronic communication (referred to as mobile phones in this document) that provides teachers, students and their parents/caregivers 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 caregivers must first read, understand and agree to the Acceptable Use Policy. This policy also applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities and includes all forms of electronic communication technology (i.e. Palm Pilots, MP3, IPods, players etc).

2. Rationale

2.1 Personal safety and security
Meningie Area School accepts that parents give their children mobile phones as a form of protection or when travelling arrangements may need to be made after sports training.

2.2 Responsibility
It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile phones onto school grounds to adhere to the guidelines outlined in this document. Permission to have a mobile phone at Meningie Area School while under the school’s supervision is contingent upon permission in the form of a signed copy of this policy. Parents/caregivers may revoke approval at any time and simply notify the school of their decision.

2.3. Acceptable Uses
Parents/caregivers are reminded that the Front Office at the school remains the vital and appropriate point of contact. This will ensure your child is reached quickly, and assisted in any appropriate way.

2.4 Unacceptable Uses
Mobile phones are to be switched off during school hours. There will be no exceptions to this part of the policy, except in exceptional circumstances, with the authority of the Principal. Mobile phones must not be used to take photos. Should there be disruptions to lessons caused by a mobile phone, the responsible student will face disciplinary actions in accordance with the school’s Student Behaviour Management procedures.

2.5 Theft or damage
Students are required to mark their mobile phone clearly with their name. Students who bring a mobile phone onto school premises should ensure they have a means of locking them in their bags/lockers 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. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing mobile phones that are lost, stolen or damaged whilst on school premises or at school sponsored functions, neither does the school accept 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.
2.6 Inappropriate conduct
   a) Any student caught using a mobile phone to cheat in exams or assessments will face disciplinary action as sanctioned by the Student Behaviour Management procedures.
   b) Any student who uses vulgar, derogatory or obscene language while using a mobile phone will face disciplinary actions as sanctioned by the Student Behaviour Management procedures.
   c) It should be noted it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. In such incidences, it may be considered appropriate by the school to involve the police. Hence, students with mobile phones must 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.
   d) Students using mobile phones to bully other students will face disciplinary actions as sanctioned by the Student Behaviour Management procedures.

2.7 Sanctions
Students infringing these rules will have their mobile phone confiscated. It will be taken to a secure place within the school and the parents/caregivers of the students will be informed. Parents/caregivers of the student may collect the phone at their convenience. Any repeat infringement will result in forfeiture of the privilege of the student to bring a phone to school. Infringement under section 2.6(c) may result in the matter being referred to the police. In such a case, the parents will be informed as a matter of urgency.

Effective: Term 2 2008

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION

I have read and understood the above information about appropriate use of mobile phones at Meningie Area 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 understand that by signing this document I agree to the terms outlined above.

I give my child permission to carry a mobile phone to Meningie Area 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. I recognise the school accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.

Parent/caregiver name (print)………………………… Student name (print) ………………………

Parent signature ……………………………………… Mobile phone number ………………………

Date ……………………………………… Student signature ………………………………………

Date: ………………………………………

Teacher name (print) ……………………

Teacher signature ………………………

Date: ………………………………………

Adopted Governing Council
2008