

Freeling P-7 School

DIGITAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICE POLICY

(use of mobile phones and personal devices)



Purpose

This policy provides direction to students, staff and families about managing mobile phones and other digital devices that students choose to bring to school. Digital devices include, but are not limited to, smartwatches, tablets or laptops that are not part of a separate Bring Your Own Device arrangement. This policy applies while students are at school, or attending an authorised school activity such as an excursion, during school hours.

RATIONALE

Digital telecommunication devices are important modern day communication tools. They can easily be improperly used, lost, damaged or stolen and must therefore be effectively managed by students, parents and staff.

The school office remains the appropriate point of contact during the school day. We will ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in an appropriate way.

Mobile phone use for primary school students

The department's position is that primary aged students cannot use their mobile phones and personal devices at school during school hours. The department and the school recognise that there are legitimate reasons for students to bring a mobile phone or personal device to school. This may include:

- to ensure their safety while travelling
- so that parents can contact them outside of school hours.

During the school day students are not permitted to access or use their mobile phones or other personal devices. Students must switch off or mute their devices before storing them at the beginning of the school day. They will not be able to access their device until the end of the school day.

Storage of personal devices

- Personal telecommunication devices are brought to school at entirely the owner's risk. The school will not be involved in disputes and/or investigations over damage, loss or theft. If a student brings a device to school, it is his/her own responsibility.
- Are not to have telecommunication devices in their possession during school hours.
- Will pass their devices to their classroom teacher or the front office at the beginning of the school day to be stored.
- Will ensure that their devices are turned to silent or off.
- Will collect their devices from their classroom teacher or the office at the end of the day.

If the student does not comply

- If a student is found to not be following this policy staff will:
- Confiscate the device and securely store it until the end of the school day.
- Communicate with parents or caregivers about the incident.
- Reinforce the procedures of this policy.

Roles and responsibilities

Principal

Make sure:

- this policy is clearly communicated and accessible to all students, staff, and families
- there is a process for regular review of the policy
- secure storage is provided for student personal devices that are handed in to school staff
- processes are in place for monitoring internet and school network use by all members of the school community.

Enforce the policy and responses to instances of non-compliance.

Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.

Consider requests for exemptions from the policy from parents on a case-by-case basis. Make sure that approved exemptions are documented and that relevant staff are informed about students' exemptions.

Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.

School staff

Deliver learning opportunities and maintain a safe and productive learning environment. Take steps to minimise distractions from the non-educational use of personal devices in the learning environment at times when a device is being used by a student in line with an approved exemption or in circumstances where students' devices are stored in the classroom.

Respond to instances of non-compliance in line with the school's policy.

Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.

Make sure that any student personal devices handed in for their care are stored in a secure location and are returned to the student (or their parent).

Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.

Students

Comply with the requirements of the school's policy and follow all reasonable directions from the Principal and school staff.

If permitted to use a mobile phone or personal device in line with an exemption under this policy, do so in a safe, responsible and respectful way and support peers to do the same.

Communicate respectfully with others and do not use a mobile phone or other personal device to bully, harass or threaten another person.

Respect others' rights to privacy and do not take photos, film or audio records of other people without their knowledge or permission.

Parents

Support the implementation of the school's policy, including the consequences for non-compliance with the policy.

Use the school's formal communication channels in all instances to communicate with the school (including where a student requires early collection from school). Encourage their child to always report to a school staff member in the first instance if they become unwell or experience an issue at school.

Recognise the important role they play in supporting their child to use their mobile phone (or other personal device) in a safe, responsible and respectful way.

Communication and review

Staff will contact parents and care givers if students are found to not be following this policy.

Documented Processes

This policy was developed with reference to the following documents:

The Department for Education mobile communication devices policy

The Department for Education 'Protective Practices for staff in their interactions with young people'

Monitoring and review

This policy has been developed in accordance with the DfE Policies and in consultation with Freeling Primary School Staff and Governing Council. This policy has been approved by the Governing Council and will be reviewed every year.