Mary MacKillop Memorial School

“This is what God asks of you only this
To act justly,
To love tenderly,
And walk humbly with your God”

Micah 6:8

Digital Devices Policy
MISSION STATEMENT

At Mary MacKillop Memorial School we, the parents, students and staff are committed to continuing the vision of our founders, Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods. We value and endeavour to provide an education of excellence and care in a family environment, being accessible to all while upholding the Catholic tradition based on the philosophy “In Omnibus Caritas” … In all things love and kindness.

PREAMBLE

Mary MacKillop Memorial School seeks to work in partnership with parents/caregivers in the educational process of their children, based on the spirit and charism of Mary MacKillop.

An integral part of this process is providing an environment where each community member is recognized as a unique individual with rights and responsibilities.

Our Christian heritage provides the basis for our philosophy and process.

As a school community, we recognize and we acknowledge the great support and co-operation already given and which exists between staff, students and families.

Introduction

Over the past few years schools have seen a proliferation of technologies that children bring to school. These technologies include electronic games, Tamagotchi toys, MP3 players (e.g. Ipods), digital cameras, mobile phones etc. Some of these items are for recreational use and at times may be required safety as in the case with some mobile phones.

Definition

This policy covers all digital and electronic devices that children bring to school including but not exclusively electronic games, MP3 Players, digital cameras and mobile phones.

Policy Statement

The school wishes to discourage the bringing of digital and electronic devices to school on the grounds that they are valuable and may be lost, stolen, broken and that they can be disruptive to teaching and learning. However, we recognise that some students require access to a phone for safety reasons when coming to school and from school.

Guidelines for Implementation

The possession and use of digital and electronic devices presents a number of challenges for the school, including:
Digital and electronic devices can be valuable items and might render a student vulnerable to theft or the item being broken.

Digital and electronic devices can make pupils objects of envy and could have implications with regard to discipline and potential bullying.

**Mobile Phones – special case**

Whilst recognising that mobile phones are an aid to safety and security for some children they too are a cause of concern. For example:

- Even when apparently silent, the use of mobile phones for any purposes could potentially undermine classroom discipline.
- The use of a phone with an integrated camera or video could lead to child protection and data protection issues with regard to inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images. Should the student need access to a camera for school purposes the school will supply the camera.

Some students require access to a phone for safety reasons when coming to school and from school, they may bring them to school subject to the following condition.

The parent/carer should inform the school by completing the form in Appendix A.

**Guidelines for the usage of Mobile Phones**

- Mobile phones are not to be used for any purpose on school premises, grounds or during off-site activities e.g. camps and excursions.
- Children are encouraged to sign them into the Front Office for safe keeping as they arrive at school and sign their phone out at the end of the day. If a student keeps their mobile phone in their bag they take responsibility for loss, damage and the consequence following any unauthorised use.
- Parents and carers can contact children if required by leaving a message with the school secretary.
- If children require the use of a phone in an emergency they should request the use of the phone at the front office.

**Consequence of children using digital and electronic devices**

Where a student is found to have a digital or an electronic device it will be confiscated for collection by the parent/carer.
In the case of an approved mobile phone, the phone will be confiscated and will be given back at the end of the day and the parent notified of the inappropriate use.

If a child is found to have a mobile phone without a parent/carer consent form (Appendix A) the mobile phone will be confiscated for collection by the parent/carer.

**Reviewed & Ratified by Mary MacKillop Memorial School Board on 08/04/08**

**Implementation** 2008

**Policy Review Date** 2010
Mobile Phones
Some students require access to a phone for safety reasons when coming to school and from school, they may bring them to school subject to the following conditions:

- Mobile phones are not to be used for any purpose on school premises or school activities e.g. camps and excursions.
- Children are encouraged to sign in their mobile phone to the Front Office for safe keeping as they arrive at school and sign their phone out at the end of the day. If a student keeps their mobile phone in their bag he/she takes full responsibility for loss, damage and the consequence following any use on school premises or school activities.
- Parents and carers can contact children by leaving a message with the school secretary.
- If children, in an emergency, require the use of a phone they should request the use of phone at the front office.

My child requires their phone in case the need arises when coming to school and from school. I have read and understand the conditions regarding the use of mobile phones at school.

Child’s Name ________________________________

Class ______________

Parent/Caregiver’s Name ________________________

Signed __________________________

Date _______________