

STUDENT USE OF MOBILE PHONES

While we recognise that mobile phones are an important part of everyday life in our community, in a school setting they can distract students from their studies when not used appropriately and when used during lesson time.

Our key aim at Gladstone High School is to ensure that our students work in an environment free of distracting influences and that their learning outcomes are preserved.

Gladstone High School makes its phone readily available for students to make contact with home or for other pressing necessities. When messages are received from parents there is a mechanism in place to ensure that the message gets to the student appropriately.

The guidelines below will govern the use of mobile phones by students at Gladstone High School.

1. Mobile phones brought to school will be the total responsibility of the student.
2. Phones will be **switched off in class time** – this includes the additional features – eg calculators, text messaging, games, internet access, etc - built in to the phone – which are NOT to be used in class.
Should there be *exceptional urgent circumstances*, it is expected that the student will explain the circumstances necessitating the phone call and make arrangements with each subject teacher affected.
3. Any student in breach of any of the above points will be dealt with under the school's Student Behaviour Management Policy for refusing to comply with a reasonable request and / or threatening the good order of the school
4. Depending on the student's behaviour record they may receive a detention, suspension or exclusion.
5. Students are reminded of the DECD Policy on harassment and that this applies equally to electronic transfer, at all times during the school day.
6. **Mobile phone / PDA access to the internet.** Please refer to the Gladstone High School "*Acceptable Internet Use Policy*". While at school or attending GHS excursions / activities this policy applies equally to student use of their mobile phones / PDAs for internet access.

A sample of the letter to be sent home when a student uses their phone in the classroom is provided.

Date:

RE: Use of a Mobile Phone during lesson time.

Student Name:

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

This letter is to inform you that your child has used their mobile phone during lesson time at school. This resulted in their mobile phone being confiscated and stored in the school safe for the remainder of the day.

Under our 'Student Use of Mobile Phones' school policy mobile phones cannot be turned on during lesson time, and any of the additional features such as calculator, text messaging, games, video, etc also cannot be used during lesson time.

The reasons for this are:

1. Mobile phones create a distraction to both students and teachers thus impacting on student learning.
2. Mobile phones with digital camera, video and down load capacity contravene privacy laws in schools when they are used by students to send photos of other people without permission, and they also allow student access to web sites that are not subject to the DECD filtering system.
3. Mobile phones are subject to theft and misuse like all other personal items that are brought to school from time to time. The school constantly reminds students to leave personal items at home, and it will not cover any student for loss or damage to personal property that is brought to school without permission.
4. The DECD Harassment Policy now applies equally to electronic transfer, text messages, digital / video photography (without consent) while using mobile phones, and there are legal considerations parents/families need to be aware of.

While we recognise that mobile phones are a part of everyday life in our community, in a school setting they can distract students from their studies when not used appropriately and when used during lesson time. Our key aim is to ensure that our students work in an environment free of distracting influences, and that their learning outcomes are preserved.

Gladstone High School makes its phone readily available for students to make contact with home or for other pressing necessities. When messages are received from parents there is a mechanism in place to ensure that the message gets to the student appropriately..

The school seeks your support, and asks you to discuss this matter with your child. If any future incidences of this type occur, the mobile phone will continue to be confiscated and Student Behaviour Management procedures will be used, leading to detention, and/or suspension.

Please contact me at school should you wish to discuss this incident further.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Higgins,
PRINCIPAL
✂

.....
Return to Front Office for Mr. Heading

I have received the letter regarding(student name)
using a mobile phone inappropriately during lesson time on (Posted home on.....)

Parent / Caregiver:

Date:

GLADSTONE HIGH SCHOOL
P.O. Box 70, GLADSTONE S.A. 5473
Phone: 08 8662 2171 : Fax: 08 8662 2050
www.gladstonehs.sa.edu.au

Date:

RE: Use of a Mobile Phone during lesson time – 2nd & subsequent offence/s.

Student Name:

Dear Parent/Caregiver -

This letter is to inform you that your child has again used their mobile phone during lesson time at school. This resulted in their mobile phone being confiscated for the remainder of the day. This is the second such incident of this type, and it follows formal correspondence that has been sent to you regarding school policy and use of mobile phones by students during lesson time.

As a consequence:

[] A lunchtime Detention was given to your child for refusing to follow a reasonable instruction and failing to comply with school rules.

Under our 'Student Use of Mobile Phones' school policy phones cannot be turned on during lesson time, and any of the additional features such as calculator, text messaging, games, video, etc also cannot be used during lesson time.

As stated in the previous letter, the reasons for this are:

1. Mobile phones create a distraction to both students and teachers thus impacting on student learning.
2. Mobile phones with digital camera, video and down load capacity contravene privacy laws in schools when they are used by students to send photos of other people without permission, and they also allow student access to web sites that are not subject to the DECS filtering system.
3. Mobile phones are subject to theft and misuse like all other personal items that are brought to school from time to time. The school constantly reminds students to leave personal items at home, and it will not cover any student for loss or damage to personal property that is brought to school without permission.
4. The DECS Harassment Policy now applies equally to electronic transfer, text messages, digital / video photography (without consent) while using mobile phones, and there are legal considerations parents/families need to be aware of.

If a student needs to be contacted during the school day, this can be done through a phone call to the front office on 86622171. The front office staff will ensure that the student receives the message, and they will also assist them to make any return phone calls if required.

The school seeks your support in enforcing this policy with your child. Continuing non-compliance with the school mobile phone policy, and further use during lesson time, will result in escalating action being taken by staff under the school's student behaviour management policy, and this could lead to further detentions, and/or suspension.

Please contact me at the school, should you wish to discuss this incident or the school's position on this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Higgins
PRINCIPAL