



## MOBILE PHONE POLICY

**Pre-amble:** We acknowledge that current technology has changed the method and accessibility of parents and students communicating with family and friends. While we value the social implications of this, we prefer to have mobile phones used only for emergency and/or after school hour use. However families who have a mobile phone may believe it necessary for their son/daughter to bring a phone to school. As such the following policy has been developed as a clear guideline for mobile phones at Birdwood High.

- Students are discouraged from bringing mobile phones to school due to the potential for disruption to learning, damage and theft, as their use in a classroom is unnecessary.
- Students who need to bring mobile phones to school may leave them in the Front Office for safekeeping. They will be returned to the owner upon request at the end of the day. The school will not be responsible for loss of mobile phones if not kept, and accounted for, in this way.
- Phones that are able to capture images or any other image capturing devices, if used inappropriately, will be confiscated, and may only be collected by parents from the school office.
- Mobile phones must be switched off during lesson time. The teacher will confiscate any mobile phone used or heard during a lesson. Students receiving or sending messages during lessons is not permitted as it interferes with the teaching and learning in that classroom. Parents are asked to contact our office team by phone when the need arises and not to message or call their child direct. This allows our office staff to do their job and to care for your child's welfare.
- It is expected that if a need arises for a student to use their mobile phone that such use would be only at recess, lunch or after school. Teachers, knowing of mobile phone use, may inquire of the student if there is an emergency to determine if the school (through our resources or Counselling brief) may assist.
- The School community will be informed of this policy through the school Bulletins and Newsletter at least twice per year.

Review Date end 2008