The Use of Personal Technology Devices at School

This policy reflects the importance the school places on students displaying courtesy, consideration and respect for others whenever they are using personal technology devices.

Certain Personal Technology Devices Banned From School
Students must not bring valuable personal technology devices like cameras and digital video cameras etc to school as there is a risk of damage or theft. Such devices will be confiscated by school staff and may be collected at the end of the day from the school office. Breaches of this prohibition may result in disciplinary action.

Confiscation
Mobile phone and personal electronic devices (iPod, iPad, mp3, Nintendo DS, PSP etc) used contrary to this policy on school premises will be confiscated by the school for a period of 7 days. They will be made available for collection from the school office at the end of the confiscation period, unless their Parent/Guardian presents at school to organise the early collection of the device.

Devices potentially containing evidence of criminal offences may be reported to the police. In such cases police may take possession of such devices for investigation purposes and students and parents will be advised to contact Queensland Police Service directly.

Personal Technology Device Etiquette
Bringing personal technology devices (other than Bring Your Own Device or 1:1 laptop program) to school is not encouraged by the school because of the general distraction and/or disruption associated with them. However, if they are brought to school, they must be turned off and out of sight during assemblies or class time. Personal technology devices (other than Bring Your Own Device or 1:1 laptop program) may be used before school, morning tea, lunch break and after school.

Recording voice and Images
Every member of the school community should feel confident about participating fully and frankly in all aspects of school life without concern that their personal privacy is being invaded by them being recorded without their knowledge or consent.

We uphold the value of trust and the right to privacy at Windaroo Valley State High School. Students who use personal technology devices to record inappropriate behaviours or incidents (such as vandalism, fighting, bullying, staged fighting or pranks etc) for the purpose of dissemination among the student body or outside the school, by any means (including distribution by phone or internet posting) build a culture of distrust and disharmony.

Students must not record images or sound anywhere in the classroom, grounds or school event / function.

A student at school who uses a personal technology device to record private conversations, ordinary school activities (apart from social functions like graduation ceremonies) or violent, illegal or embarrassing matter capable of bringing the school into public disrepute is considered to be in breach of this policy.

Even where consent is obtained for such recording, the school will not tolerate images or sound captured by personal technology devices on the school premises or elsewhere being disseminated to others, if it is done for the purpose of causing embarrassment to individuals or the school, for the purpose of bullying or harassment, including racial and sexual harassment, or where without such intent a reasonable person would conclude that such outcomes may have or will occur.
Students involved in:
- recording; and/or
- disseminating material (through text messaging, display, internet uploading etc); and/or,
- knowingly being a subject of a recording
are in breach of this policy and may be subject to disciplinary action (including suspension and recommendation for exclusion).

Students should note that the recording or dissemination of images that are considered indecent (such as nudity or sexual acts involving children), is against the law and if detected by the school will result in a referral to the Queensland Police Service.

**Text communication**
The sending of text messages that contain sexting, obscene language and/or threats of violence may amount to bullying and or harassment or even stalking, and will subject the sender to discipline and possible referral to the Queensland Police Service. Students receiving such text messages at school, should ensure they keep the message as evidence and bring the matter to the attention of the school.

**Assumption of cheating**
Personal technology devices may not be taken into or used by students at exams or during class assessment unless expressly permitted by staff. Staff will assume students in possession of such devices during exams or assessments are cheating. Disciplinary action will be taken against any student who is caught using a personal technology device to cheat during exams or assessments.

**Recording Private Conversations and the Invasion of Privacy Act 1971**
It is important that all members of the school community understand that under the *Invasion of Privacy Act 1971*, ‘a person is guilty of an offence against this Act if the person uses a listening device to overhear, record, monitor or listen to a private conversation’. It is also an offence under the Act for a person who has overheard, recorded, monitored or listened to a conversation to which she/he is not a party to publish or communicate the substance or meaning of the conversation to others.

Students need to understand that some conversations are private and therefore to overhear, record, monitor or listen to such private conversations may be in breach of this Act, unless consent to the recording is appropriately obtained.

**Special Circumstances Arrangement**
Students who require the use of a personal technology device in circumstances that would contravene this policy (for example to assist with a medical condition or other disability or for a special project) should negotiate a special circumstances arrangement with the Deputy Principal or Principal.