ELANORA SHS MOBILE PHONE POLICY
(Revised 16 November 2017)

Introduction
Elanora SHS accepts that student access to, and use of, mobile phones is increasing and that, on occasion mobiles may need to be brought to school. Elanora SHS does not wish to expose students to nuisance calls, inappropriate text messages or any form of electronic bullying or harassment. For this reason, the school adopts a strong stance on the use of these devices.

Appropriate use
Mobile phones and accessories (e.g. headphones) can only be used before or after school, or during recess and lunch breaks, where these devices are not being used in a teacher directed activity to enhance learning. Students are permitted to bring mobile phones to school with them under the conditions outlined below:

1. Communication devices must not be used for any purpose (eg phoning, texting, surfing the net, taking photos or videos, listening to music) in class time, unless in accordance with Point 6.

2. Phones must always be switched off (not on silent mode) and kept out of view during class time.

3. Students are to display courtesy, respect and consideration for others when using communications devices in the school.

4. Camera functions on mobile phones are not to be used at ANY time, unless with the express written permission of a teacher. (Eg. Photography/Dance assessment, English Oral, etc).

5. Students who feel unwell MUST contact home via the front office, NOT use their mobile phones. This allows first aid staff to monitor the sick person while they wait to be collected.

6. Students will be able to use their phones in class if part of the learning program and supervised by staff. Students who are required to use a communication device outside of the classroom should be provided with a teacher note explaining approval of communications device use.

7. Parents who need to urgently contact students MUST do so through the front office. Staff will ensure that students receive messages. Students bring mobile phones and any other expensive electronic devices to school at their own risk – the school and school staff will not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to mobile phones or for investigating loss or damage. At no time should students leave phones or other expensive items unattended.

Inappropriate use
A mobile phone is used inappropriately if it:

- Disrupts the learning environment
- Threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or well-being of any person e.g. it is used to bully or harass another. It is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person.
- The Commonwealth’s Criminal Code Act 1995, section 4.7.4.17 notes that it is an offence for a person to use ‘a carriage service to menace, harass or cause offence.’
The Commonwealth’s Criminal Code Act 1995, section 4.7.4.15 notes that it is an offence for a person to use ‘a carriage service to make a threat.’
The Commonwealth’s Crimes Act 1914, part VII B, section 85ZE notes that it is an offence for ‘a person to knowingly or recklessly use a telecommunications service supplied by a carrier in such a way as would be regarded by reasonable persons being, in all the circumstances, offensive.’
The sending of images is also covered by various State and Commonwealth laws that prevent the publication of material that is objectionable, unclassified or unsuitable for minors.
If in the opinion of the Principal, material captured or transmitted by the phone denigrates the reputation of Elanora SHS e.g. a camera phone is used to place inappropriate material that is identifiable as Elanora SHS on the internet
Students use the phone to film or photograph another student or person without their consent

Consequences for Inappropriate Use

Consequences for students not adhering to the School’s Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy can include contact home to parents, prevention from participating in school activities, or detention.

Initially, students will have their phone confiscated by the teacher/supervising teacher, for the remainder of the school day. The confiscated item will be taken to Student Services by the teacher where the student can collect at the end of the day. The item will be logged and receipted by Student Services.

Any further offences will mean the item will be confiscated and parents will be required to collect the item from Student Services. All unclaimed items will be disposed of, or donated to charity, by week 4 of the following term.

If a student does not comply with the school Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy, the Principal, or delegated officer, may impose one of the following sanctions:

1. Detention of the student for a period mentioned in section 283(3) of The Act;
2. Prevent the student from attending or participating in, any school activity that, in the reasonable opinion of the Principal or delegate, is not part of the essential educational program of the school.
3. Confiscation and/or withdrawing the right to bring a phone or other electronic device to school
4. An internal suspension
5. An external suspension

Cases where phones have been used to break the law may be referred to the police, in particular, transmission of any sexually explicit images "sexting" which can result in perpetrators being placed on a sexual offenders register. The school will assist Queensland Police in any investigation in compliance with relevant acts.

Relevant Legislation and Policies:
Education (General Provisions) Act 2006
Invasion of Privacy Act 1971
SMS-PR-021: Safe, Supportive and a Disciplined School Environment
SCM-PR-003: Appropriate use of mobile telephones and other electronic equipment by student