Mobile Phone Policy

Mobile phones are to be turned off during school hours except for morning tea and lunch unless at the direction of the teacher.

We discourage students from bringing phones to school. If students choose to bring a phone to school the phone must be used responsibly.

Responsible use
- As a communication device, mobile phones when used appropriately offer students and their parents many advantages in relation to ease of communication and personal safety.
- In this age of eLearning teachers may utilise mobile phones as a learning tool. Phones used in this regard are at the discretion of the teacher.

Inappropriate use and consequences are outlined below.

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 VIIB, 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
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What to do if you are aware of inappropriate use
- Never forward any inappropriate messages and/or images on as this could constitute a crime.
- Do not respond to inappropriate material instead keep the message (and time and date it was sent) as evidence, and tell your parents, Year Coordinator, Dean of Students or member of the administration
- Report any inappropriate use to a member of the administration immediately
- Protect your number
- Prevent people getting hold of your number by only giving your phone number to friends
- Consider using ID blocking to hide your phone number
- Do not give anyone information about yourself
- Do not loan your phone to friends
- For internet harassment also log onto www.netalert.gov.au for help and / or your mobile phone company may be able to help by stopping calls from some numbers or giving you a new phone number.
Consequences of inappropriate use
- Inappropriate use of mobile phones or the internet is a breach of the Elanora SHS Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students in that it infringes the rights of others to be safe and/or the rights of all to learn. Consequences will be applied according to the plan.
- 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 offender register.

Responsibility for Mobile Phones
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 expensivetitmes unattended.