



Blackheath & Thornburgh College

55 King Street / PO Box 339 | CHARTERS TOWERS QLD 4820
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ABN: 57 107 444 011 | CRICOS: 00488D

Blackheath & Thornburgh College Mobile Device Acceptable Usage Policy

Mobile devices have rapidly changed the way we communicate with each other and will continue to do so as society craves faster, easier and more on demand access to information. Used carefully, in the correct way and setting, mobile devices are a wonderful tool for communication and social engagement. However, used in the wrong way these devices can cause harm both socially, psychologically and cognitively. As young people seek the enjoyment online the fact that wrongful use of a mobile device can result in life changing criminal charges for young people needs to be understood.

The following information outlines the principles and expectations of all students of Blackheath & Thornburgh College who wish to bring a mobile device to school.

1. Purpose and Rationale

1.1 The widespread ownership of mobile devices (Phones, tablets and iPods) among students require that school administrators, teachers, students, and parents take steps to ensure that such mobile devices are used responsibly at school. This Acceptable Use Policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving mobile devices can be clearly identified and addressed, ensuring the benefits that mobile phones provide (such as increased safety) can still be accessed where suitable.

1.2 Blackheath & Thornburgh College accepts that parents give their children mobile devices to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. Parents may also be concerned about children travelling alone on public transport or commuting long distances to school. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile device gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently.

1.3 Blackheath & Thornburgh College has established this Acceptable Use Policy for mobile devices that provides teachers, students and parents guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of mobiles during school hours.

1.4 Students, their parents or guardians are invited to read and familiarise themselves with the Acceptable Use Policy if students intend to bring mobile devices to school.

1.5 The Acceptable Use Policy for mobile devices also applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities unless it has pre-arranged by the responsible staff member.

2. Responsibilities – Students and Parents

2.1 Students and their parents or guardians should read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy before students are permitted to bring their mobile devices to school.

2.2 It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile devices to school to abide by the guidelines outlined in Blackheath & Thornburgh College Acceptable Use Policy.



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2.3 The decision to provide a mobile device to their child should be made by parents or guardians.

2.4 Parents should be aware if their child takes a mobile device to school.

2.5 Parents should be aware that any mobile device brought onto the school ground is done so at their own risk.

2.6 Should parents wish to contact their son/ daughter at any time they can do so through administration (07) 4787 5100.

2.7 If their child's device is confiscated it is the parent's responsibility to collect the device from the front office or if the student is a boarder, it will be collected by the Head of Boarding. If the parent is unable to collect, they must contact the school to arrange an alternative device collection.

2.8 Students are reminded to protect their phone numbers by only giving them to close friends and family. It may help younger students to keep a note of who they have given their phone number to. This can help protect the student's number from falling into the wrong hands and guard against a host of cyber-safety issues.

3. What is a mobile device?

3.1 A mobile device is a handheld tablet or other device that is made for portability and is therefore both compact and lightweight providing access to online content without the need for WIFI.

4. Agreement

4.1 In bringing a mobile device to school, students agree that their mobile phone will be kept in their bag and will not be accessed during the hours of 8:25am to 3:00pm.

4.2 Students understand that the school accepts no responsibility or liability for mobile device whilst they are at school (bring your mobile device to school at your own risk).

4.3 Students understand that the school accepts no responsibility or liability for the wrongful use of their mobile device. This includes the understanding that student will not allow others to use their device.

4.4 Students understand that if their mobile device is wrongfully used, they may be responsible for any harm or damage that arises which may lead to suspension or referral to police for further investigation.

4.5 Students should not use mobile devices to make calls, send text messages, access the internet, take photos or use other applications between the hours of 8:25am to 3:00pm or while engaged in other school sanctioned excursions.

4.6 Blackheath & Thornburgh College accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile devices.



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4.7 Blackheath & Thornburgh College accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their mobile devices stolen while travelling to and from school.

5. Breach of Agreement

5.1 Should a student access their device between hours of 8:20am to 3:10pm they will be asked by the reporting staff member to take the phone to the front office and the student's parent informed. Appropriate arrangements would then be made for the parents to collect the mobile device.

5.2 Students who use their mobile device to capture images or video at any time on school grounds will have their device confiscated and appropriate arrangements would then be made for the parents to collect the mobile device.

5.3 Students accessing and using their device to capture offensive or inappropriate images, videos or participate in cyber-bullying at any time whilst on school grounds will have their phone confiscated and the matter will be dealt with by the Dean of Students and may be referred to police.

5.4 All unauthorised access of mobile devices will be noted on PCSchools with an accumulation of 3 or more instances leading to a Saturday detention and meeting with parents and the Dean of Students. Repeated infringements may result in the withdrawal of the agreement allowing the student to bring the mobile telephone to school.

6. Camps, excursions and sporting events

6.1 Unless otherwise advised by the co-coordinating staff member students are not permitted to have mobile devices at any stage during these events. The policy for the duration of these events will be as per the normal school day. Failure to follow this policy will result in the mobile device being confiscated for the duration of the activity and parents being contacted. Appropriate arrangements would then be made for the parents to collect the mobile device.

7. Phone use in Boarding

7.1 As a school we understand the importance of regular communication home for our boarding families. The following guidelines relate specifically to our boarding students and are designed to prevent mis/overuse and promote healthy sleep habits and social interaction. It must be noted that the use of mobile phones is a privilege for students and any misuse will result in devices being removed and parent/guardian contacted.

Sunday to Thursday

Year 5-8: Phone collected at 8:15pm each evening and returned to student the following afternoon upon completion of housekeeping (eg. bed made, washing unpacked)

Year 9: Phone collected at 9:00pm and returned to student the following afternoon upon completion of housekeeping (eg. bed made, washing unpacked)



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Year 10-12: Students are responsible for monitoring their phone usage and will not be required to hand in their devices in the evening. Usage is monitored by boarding staff and any access after lights out will result in the device being confiscated and returned the following afternoon upon completion of housekeeping (eg. bed made, washing unpacked)

Friday and Saturday Night

Year 5-9: Phone collected 9:15pm each evening and returned to student the following morning following successful dorm inspection.