

How it Works



Bringing Personal Electronic Devices To School

Macquarie Primary School promotes and supports the use of technology for learning and the school provides high quality ICT to ensure access and equity. Each year we allocate funds to continue to build and maintain our technological tools including ipads, chromebooks, robots. Students have access to these tools to enhance their learning experiences at school and we teach students how to use *Google Applications For Education (GAFE)* suite to facilitate online learning experiences.

We are aware that children are increasingly using electronic devices in their lives outside school. We have carefully considered whether bringing their own devices for use in class, in addition to or instead of those provided by the school, helps children to access a high-quality education (part of the ACT Education Directorate's mission, which we aim to achieve at our school).

Our considered position is that in general it does not, and therefore it is not generally appropriate for children to bring in and use their own devices during the school day. We say "generally" because some students may need specific technologies tailored to their particular learning needs. In such cases a suitable exception would be applied.

A related issue is whether students should have mobile phones at school. Our view is that for Macquarie Primary School students, mobile phones are a communication tool, not an educational tool, and should not be used during the learning day.

We realise that often parents like their children to have access to a mobile phone for security reasons, particularly on the way to and from school. While we would prefer that students do not bring their mobile phone to school, the decision as to whether or not this happens rests with the family. If you choose for your child to bring their phone to school please be aware that the school cannot accept responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen, nor does it have the resources to conduct investigations into misplaced or stolen phones.

If mobile phones are brought to school the following procedures apply:

- They are switched off and put away in school bag during school hours.
- Students cannot take calls during school hours including recess and lunch periods.
- Students cannot send or receive SMS messages during school hours including recess and lunch periods.
- They are NOT to be used for playing games or music, to check the time, to be used as a calculator or a diary, or used to take photographs/movies.
- Students who are feeling sick are to follow normal procedures, ask permission to go to sick bay and the front office staff will contact parents.

If any of these procedures are breached mobile phones will be collected by staff and returned at the end of the day. This is to maintain the orderly and safe learning environment for all students. For persistent breaches families will be asked to support the safe and responsible management of technology, which may include not bringing the device to school.

This procedure is based on the Board endorsed Position Paper developed August 2019.