Use of Mobile Phones & Electronic Devices by Students

RATIONALE:
The use of mobile phones and similar electronic devices in class and at school can be disruptive to the learning environment of students and is strongly discouraged. It is acknowledged that in some situations such devices may be used responsibly in emergencies.

GUIDELINES:
• Mobile phones or electronic devices should not be used in any manner or place that is disruptive to the normal routine of a school.
• Students should only use their mobile phones or electronic devices before or after school.
• There are times when it may be genuinely appropriate and beneficial for students to have access to a mobile phone, e.g. to contact parents or guardians in emergencies.
• If/when mobile phones or electronic devices are brought to school they are to be deposited at the office at the beginning of the school day and collected from the office at the end of the school day.
• It is important that students display courtesy, consideration and respect for others whenever they are using a mobile phone or electronic devices.
• In-phone cameras are not to be used anywhere a normal camera would be considered inappropriate, such as in change rooms or toilets.
• Appropriate action will be taken against any student who photographs or films other individuals without their consent or who sends harassing or threatening messages. (see Victorian Government School Reference Guide 4.6.3)
• Disciplinary action will be taken against any student who is caught using a mobile phone or electronic device in an inappropriate manner.
• Mobile phones and electronic devices are used at their owners’ risk.
• This policy applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.
• The Department of Education & Early Childhood Development (DEECD) does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property. Students are discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school (Circular 038/2005).

EVALUATION/REVIEW
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year cycle of review.

Ratified by Bellbridge Primary School Council – November 2014

School Council President: Elisa Cole       Principal: Debbie Clancy