

Tamborine Mountain State High School



Personal Technology Policy 2023



TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN STATE HIGH SCHOOL

The Use of Personal Technology Devices at School

It is usually unnecessary for students to have personal technology devices* at school. The use of mobile phones, pagers, portable CD and MP3 players, personal digital assistants, IPADs, i-Pods, digital cameras, personal laptops and similar devices in class, is disruptive to the learning environment of all students.

This policy reflects the importance the school places on students displaying courtesy, consideration and respect for others whenever they are using personal technology devices.

Cheating

Using a personal technology device to cheat in exam or assessments will result in disciplinary action. Such matters will be referred to the school's Middle Management and Administration.

Cyber-bullying

Students are connected constantly to their peer group through the use of technology.

Technology forms such as email, text, chat rooms, MSN, mobile phones, camera phones, Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube are immediate. These technologies may be used for repeated hostile communication. The communication can be forwarded widely and quickly. The identity of the perpetrator may also be hidden.

This form of bullying is far-reaching and has significant impact on families.

Cyber-bullying, like other bullying forms, is not tolerated at TMSHS.

Suggested Strategies:

- Supervise students' use of technology.
- Report incidents to the police.
- Ensure the "messages" are reproducible as evidence.
- Do not respond via any communication mode.
- Inform perpetrator's guardians.
- Inform the school.

Consequences (dependent on incident)

- Official warning.
- Parent notification.
- Internal school suspension.
- 1-5 Saturday detention
- 5-10 day external suspension.
- 11-20 day external suspension.

- . Alternate programs.
- . Conferencing.
- . Referral to other agencies and providers.
- . Contracts with students.
- . Regional Office intervention.
- . Exclusion.

Excursions

This policy also applies to students during excursions and extra-curricular activities.

Some excursions may permit the use of mobile phones for security reasons. Parents/caregivers will be notified via letter of any such permission.

Facebook/Snapchat/Instagram/WhatsApp

- . Facebook/Snapchat/Instagram/WhatsApp are currently the social networks of choice. Such sites present opportunities for self-expression and friendship building. Unfortunately some teens engage in unsafe or irresponsible activities and inappropriate communication.
- . At times involvement in these cyber communities might negatively impact on student wellbeing or the quality of the school environment.
- . Comments on Facebook/Snapchat/Instagram/WhatsApp or any social media that impacts negatively on students or staff will not be tolerated. Such comments or "liking" them may be classified as bullying, harassment or defamatory.

Consequences (dependent on incident)

- . Official warning.
- . Parent notification.
- . Internal school suspension.
- . 1-5 Saturday detention
- . 5-10 day external suspension.
- . 11-20 day external suspension.
- . Alternate programs.
- . Conferencing.
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Loss of Device

No liability will be accepted by the school in the event of the loss, theft or damage of any device.

Mobile Phones

All mobile phones or any personal media devices are to be submitted to Student Services upon arrival at school and collected at the conclusion of the school day (3:05 pm).

Consequences

Personal technology devices used on school premises contrary to this policy will be confiscated on the first breach occasion.

The device will be returned directly to the parent on the second offence and thereafter.

The use of a mobile phone and smart watches during lessons or recesses will result in suspension.

Confiscated items will be made available for collection from Student Services unless they are required to be kept for purposes of disciplinary investigation, when it will only be returned in the presence of a parent/caregiver.

Students who have a personal technology device confiscated more than once will not be permitted to have a personal technology device at school for at least one month or longer, if deemed necessary by the Principal. The item will need to be collected by a parent/caregiver.

Devices potentially containing evidence of criminal offences may be reported to the police. In such cases, police may take possession of such devices for investigation purposes and students and parents will be advised to contact Queensland Police Service (QPS) directly.

Recording Private Conversations and the *Invasion of Privacy Act 1971*

It is important that all members of the school community understand that under the *Invasion of Privacy Act 1971*, "a person is guilty of an offence against this Act if the person uses a listening device to overhear, record, monitor or listen to a private conversation". It is also an offence under the Act, for a person who has overheard, recorded, monitored or listened to a conversation to which s/he is not a party, to publish or communicate the substance or meaning of the conversation to others.

Students need to understand that some conversations are private and therefore to overhear, record, monitor or listen to such conversations may be in breach of this Act, unless consent to the recording is appropriately obtained.

Recording Voice and Images

Tamborine Mountain State High School upholds the value of trust and the right to privacy.

Every member of the school community should feel confident about participating fully and frankly in all aspects of school life and that their personal privacy is not invaded by being recorded without their knowledge or consent.

Students using personal technology devices to record inappropriate behaviours or incidents (such as vandalism, fighting, bullying, staged fighting or pranks etc.) for the purpose of dissemination among the student body or outside the school, by any means (including distribution by phone or internet posting) build a culture of distrust and disharmony.

Students must not record images anywhere that recording would not reasonably be considered appropriate for example in change rooms, toilets or any other place where a reasonable person would expect to be afforded privacy.

A student at school who uses a personal technology device to record private conversations, ordinary school activities, violent, illegal or embarrassing matter capable of bringing the school into public disrepute is considered to be in breach of this policy.

Even where consent is obtained for such recording, the school will **not tolerate** images or sound captured by personal technology devices on the school premises or elsewhere being disseminated to others. Recording undertaken for the purpose of causing embarrassment to individuals or the school or for the purpose of bullying¹ or harassment, including racial and sexual harassment, or where without such intent a reasonable person would conclude that such outcomes may have or will occur, is prohibited and will result in consequences for those students involved.

Students involved in:

- recording, and/or
- disseminating material (through text messaging, display, internet uploading etc.), and/or
- knowingly being a subject of a recording
- taking images of students in uniform without consent and/or uploading of photographs of students in uniform to social media site or laptop.

may be subject to discipline including suspension and/or the recommendation for exclusion.

Students should note that the recording or dissemination of images that are considered indecent (such as nudity or sexual acts involving children), is against the law and if detected by the school will result in a referral to Queensland Police Service.

Special Circumstances Arrangement

Students who require the use of a personal technology device in circumstances that would contravene this policy (for example to assist with a medical condition or other disability or for a special project) should negotiate a special circumstances arrangement with the Principal or Deputy Principal.

¹ *The Department of Education does not tolerate bullying behaviour at schools. This includes bullying conducted by electronic means.*

Text Communication

The sending of text messages that contain obscene language and/or threats of violence may amount to bullying, harassment or even stalking and will subject the sender to discipline and possible referral to Queensland Police Service. Students receiving such text messages at school, should ensure they keep the message as evidence and bring the matter to the attention of the Principal.

- * *Personal Technology Devices includes, but is not limited to, games devices (such as Portable gaming devices, Tamagotchis®, laptop computers, PDAs, Blackberrys®, cameras and/or voice recording devices (whether or not integrated with a mobile phone or MP3 player), mobile telephones, IPods® and devices of a similar nature.*