



Use of electronic devices by students

For the purpose of this policy a **personal electronic device (PED)** is defined as any electronic device capable of sending and/or receiving phone calls and/or text messages, can take photos and/or store images, can record and/or store voice recording, can be used to conduct internet searches, and can store electronic games. **Examples of PEDs include but are not limited to mobile phones, smart watches, all gaming devices and cameras.**

Digital literacy refers to the skills needed to live, learn and work in a society where communication and access to information is dominated by digital technologies like mobile phones. However, the benefits brought about through these diverse technologies can be easily overshadowed by deliberate misuse which harms others or disrupts learning.

Our school community believes that students have the right to learn and teachers have the right to teach in a distraction-free environment. **Therefore, the Helidon State School community agrees that PEDs are not a required item for students at school, and therefore, are not to be brought to school. This includes all off-campus activities that include excursions, camps, and attendance at sporting and cultural activities, and official extra-curricular school events that includes Barn Dance, Christmas Concert, Fete, etc.** There are a limited range of reasons for allowing a PED at school that are listed below.



Helidon State School has determined that explicit teaching of responsible use of digital devices is a critical component of digital literacy. The knowledge and confidence to navigate and use these technologies safely while developing digital literacy is a responsibility shared between parents, school staff and students. Explicit teaching in the area of **digital literacies** is an important part of a well-designed and balanced curriculum, and space and time is provided at school where technology is permitted. To achieve this, the school provides students with a range of digital devices to engage with and to use to support and extend their learning across all curriculum areas. This includes but is not limited to desktop and laptop computers, i-Pads and other portable devices, cameras, etc.

Students may bring a PED to school in the following circumstances ONLY:

- Parents / Carers require their child to have PED at school to facilitate communication with their child on the way to and on the way home from school.
- A PED is required as part of a prescribed treatment regime for a diagnosed medical condition and may be carried on the student's person while at school. In this circumstance, the school requires that the student has a formal treatment plan that is signed by a suitable qualified medical practitioner, and that the PED is set up **only** to facilitate the prescribed treatment. All unnecessary functions are to be disabled.

Student expectations regarding PEDs:

If a student brings a PED to school, the following procedure is to be followed:

- When they arrive at school, they turn the PED **OFF** and is not to be used on school grounds.
- They immediately report to the office and hand it in to be stored securely for the entire school day.
- At the end of the school day (or if they need to leave early), they will report to the office to collect the PED. School staff will not be responsible for reminding students to collect their PED.
- Parents/carers and students are solely responsible for the PED that is brought to school. The school will not be responsible for the loss or damage to any PED.

For students who do not comply with expectations regarding PEDs, parents will be contacted by the Principal or their delegate, and other appropriate consequences may be applied at the discretion of the Principal in line with our Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) policy.

Student responsibilities

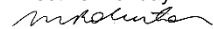
The sending of messages (text, voice or images) via any electronic means that contain obscene language, threats of violence, deliberate misinformation, or that contains sexually explicit material is potentially a breach of various state and federal laws. If a child receives such a message at school, he/she is to report this immediately to the Principal or their class teacher. In these cases, the matter may be referred to the Queensland Police.

Using school-supplied electronic devices

At all times students, while using ICT facilities and devices supplied by the school, will be required to act in line with the requirements of the Helidon State School Student Code of Conduct. In addition, students and their parents/carers should:

- understand the responsibility and behaviour requirements (as outlined by the school) that come with accessing the department's ICT network facilities
- ensure they have the skills to report and discontinue access to harmful information if presented via the internet or email
- be aware that:
 - access to ICT facilities and devices provides valuable learning experiences for students and supports the school's teaching and learning programs
 - the school is not responsible for safeguarding information stored by students on departmentally-owned student computers or mobile devices
 - schools may remotely access departmentally-owned student computers or mobile devices for management purposes
 - students who use a school's ICT facilities and devices in a manner that is not appropriate may be subject to disciplinary action by the school, which could include restricting network access
 - despite internal departmental controls to manage content on the internet, illegal, dangerous or offensive information may be accessed or accidentally displayed
 - teachers will always exercise their duty of care, but avoiding or reducing access to harmful information also requires responsible use by the student.

Effective Monday 12th June 2023



Mark Robertson – Principal Helidon State School