

Student Use of Electronic Devices on School Camps/Tours Policy

Rationale:

Alphington Primary School recognizes the value electronic devices can play in communication and the promotion of intellectual, social and emotional skills for children (e.g. listening to music or playing games whilst experiencing extended travel). Devices enable easy access between parents and students on tours and provide a sense of security for students. Safe and appropriate regulation of access to these devices during camps and international travel can pose challenges for staff. Inappropriate use of digital devices may cause social and emotional distress for children.

Examples of Electronic Devices:

- Hand-held gaming devices (iPod, iPad, Nintendo DS, Sony PSP, etc.)
- Any camera (This includes all digital or film cameras, phone cameras and video cameras)
- Mobile phones
- Other devices with the capability of creating, storing and/or playing audio or video files electronically, or accessing the internet.

Aims:

To:

- Regulate safe and appropriate use of digital devices during camps and international tours.
- Protect the privacy and wellbeing of all members of the school community.

Implementation:

1. Students may take electronic devices on camps or tours when notified that it is appropriate to do so by the Principal or delegate.
2. Students taking electronic devices on camp or tours, do so at their own risk.
3. Students are responsible for any electronic devices in their possession.
4. DET is not liable for any loss or damage to such property.
5. When using electronic devices on camps or tours students are expected to adhere with usage as per the school's ICT policy.
6. Games/ TV shows or movies loaded onto electronic devices must have a "G" rating.
7. Students may be given permission to use electronic devices to communicate (such as messaging, accessing the internet or making phone calls) at a specified time each day, where practical.
8. Access to the internet and communication with others is under teacher supervision.
9. Messaging others is to occur in the "common area" during this time.
10. Electronic devices will be collected by the nominated teacher before bedtime each evening; the teacher in charge will clearly communicate this time to students each day.
11. Electronic devices will be stored in a secure location when in the possession of a staff member; where practical in a "hotel room-safe".
12. Group and individual messages will be placed on a blog as frequently as practicable.
13. Direct phone calls to children are strongly discouraged however staff may be contacted through the school in Australia or on the hotel numbers provided should an emergency arise.
14. Staff reserve the right to remove electronic devices such as when misused.

NB. Daily communication may be impossible due to lack of internet connection during periods of extensive travel or during peak periods.

Evaluation:

This policy is to be reviewed as part of our school's three-year review cycle. This policy was last ratified by School Council on....

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August 2015