



RESPONSIBLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Purpose and Rationale

This policy aims to set out what West Coast SESC considers to be responsible use of technology in our setting. It concerns electronic devices such as MP3 players, mobile phones, iPods, iPads, laptops, tablet computers, personal organisers, etc. It aims to ensure that potential issues involving technology can be clearly identified and addressed, ensuring the benefits that technology provide, including increased safety, can continue to be enjoyed by our students.

It is the responsibility of students who bring a device to school to abide by the guidelines outlined in this document.

Teachers at all times have the right to view or confiscate a device to ensure it is being used responsibly.

Appropriate Use

- In class devices are only to be used for activities directly related to the learning area curriculum and used only when directed by the classroom teacher.
- Teachers will ensure students understand what responsible use of technology looks and sounds like in their class. Responsible use includes research and planning, completing school work, sharing information, recording text, images, video and audio for creating rich media products related to the curriculum.

Inappropriate Use

- It is Department of Education policy that personal mobile phones must be turned off when in class.
- Unless express permission is granted, devices should not be used to make calls, send SMS messages, surf the internet, take photos or use any other application during school lessons and other educational activities, including assemblies.
- Technology must not disrupt classroom lessons with ring tones, beeping, vibrations or similar.
- Students must not access social networking sites (e.g. Facebook / Snapchat / Twitter etc) while at school.
- Using technology to bully and threaten other students is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. In some cases it can constitute criminal behaviour and the school will report it to the relevant authority and the device will be confiscated.
- Devices are not to be used in changing rooms or toilets or used in any situation that may cause embarrassment or discomfort to fellow students, staff or visitors to the school.
- Devices are not to be used in changing rooms or toilets or used in any situation that may cause embarrassment or discomfort to fellow students, staff or visitors to the school.
- It is forbidden for a student to use their devices to take videos and pictures to denigrate or humiliate a student or a staff member.
- Unsolicited videos or pictures must not be broadcast to other students or uploaded to a website for public viewing. It is a criminal offence to use an electronic device to menace, harass or offend another person through the use of text messages, pictures or video. Calls, text messages and emails can all be traced by the appropriate authorities.



- Students should never give their password to anyone else. Any offence committed through the use of a student's computer, internet, email or other electronic account remains the responsibility of the account holder.
- Students should protect their phone numbers and email addresses by not giving them to anyone they do not know. This can help prevent the student's contact details from falling into the wrong hands and guard against the receipt of insulting, threatening or unpleasant voice, text and picture messages or emails.

Theft or damage

If students choose to bring an electronic device to school it should be clearly marked as proof of their ownership. They should also ensure that their device is always stored in a safe and secure place. To reduce the risk of theft during school hours, students who carry devices are advised to keep them well concealed and not 'advertise' them. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged devices. This condition applies equally whether the student is already at school or travelling to and from school.

Consequences for students who do not use a device responsibly

If a student allows their device to disrupt educational activities the teacher will remind the student of this policy and their expectations. Repeat incidents will lead to increasing levels of consequences, in accordance with the normal behaviour management procedures.

When a student continues to disregard the Responsible Use of Technology Policy, the School will impose sanctions to ensure the student follows the policy. This may include confiscation of device, phone calls to parents, parents collecting the device from school, withdrawal or suspension or, if appropriate involvement of police.