The Use of Personal Technology Devices*

at School

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

Recording voice and Images
Every member of the school community should feel confident about participating fully and frankly in all aspects of school life without concern that their personal privacy is being invaded by them being recorded without their knowledge or consent.
We uphold the value of trust and the right to privacy at Albany Creek SHS Students using personal technology devices to record inappropriate behaviours or incidents (such as vandalism, fighting, bullying, staged fighting or pranks etc) to disseminate to others (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 (e.g. in change rooms, toilets or any other place where a reasonable person would expect to be afforded privacy).
Recording of events in class is not permitted unless express consent is provided by the class teacher.

A school student who uses a personal technology device to record private conversations, ordinary school activities (apart from social functions like graduation ceremonies) or violent, illegal or embarrassing matter capable of bringing the school into public disrepute is considered to be in breach of this policy.
Mobile phones and personal electronic devices such as iPods and MP3/MP4 players are not permitted in either the classroom or school grounds. It is understood that some students are issued with mobile phones by their parents for safety when travelling to and from school. In such cases, mobile phones should be switched off and securely stored with the student, e.g., in their pocket, once they are in the school grounds.

Where a student may need to call their parents during the day, the call should be made from the office with permission from the office staff. Like all valuables that are brought to school, the onus is on the parent/student to ensure that they are kept secure. The school accepts no responsibility for loss/damage of valuable items.

Students found not following the policy guidelines will have their mobile phones, iPods or MP3/MP4 players confiscated and held at the office for collection at 3.00pm Friday. Parents can collect confiscated items in person at any time.

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.
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 the Queensland Police Service.

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

Assumption of cheating
Personal technology devices may not be taken into or used by students at exams or during class assessment unless expressly permitted by staff. Staff will assume students in possession of such devices during exams or assessments are cheating. Disciplinary action will be taken against any student who is caught using a personal technology device to cheat during exams or assessments.

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 private conversations may be in breach of this Act, unless consent to the recording is appropriately obtained.

Special Circumstances Arrangement
Students who require the use of a personal assistive 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 Deputy Principal or Principal.

Inappropriate behaviour outside of school hours
Students may receive disciplinary consequences for bullying or cyberbullying or other inappropriate online behaviour that occurs out of school hours, and affects the good order and management of the school.

*Personal Technology Devices include, but are not limited to the following devices; portable gaming devices, the IPhone, IPod, IPod Touch or IPad and similar games, laptop computers, PDAs, Blackberries®, cameras and/or voice recording devices (whether or not integrated with a mobile phone or MP3 player), mobile telephones and devices of a similar nature.*