



# PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY DEVICES\* AT SCHOOL POLICY

## NANANGO STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Mobile phones and other personal technology devices\* are not permitted at Nanango State High School.

If a phone is required by a student – out of school hours, the device can be securely stored during the school day at the Student Services office.

It is expected that devices not stored at Student Services will be turned off and out of sight at all times during the school day.

Devices reasonably suspected of being used by a student (e.g. in a student's hand during class) at school during the school day, or on any school activity where permission has not been granted may be confiscated.

### Confiscation

**First offence:** The device will be made available for signed collection from the Student Services Office at the end of the school day\*\*

**Second Offence:** The device will be made available for signed collection in the presence of a parent. It is not expected that parents make a special trip to collect the device.

**Third and subsequent offence/s:** as for Second Offence for collection. If a student has their device confiscated more than twice in a school year it is considered a **Major breach** of student responsibility and may result in suspension.

### Important Note:

- Students who don't comply with a request by a staff member to submit their device may be dealt with for 'Refusal to follow a staff direction'. (Pg. 9 of Responsible Behaviour Plan)
- Devices suspected of 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;
- Devices that are confiscated will be stored securely at the Student Services Building

### 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 Nanango State High School. 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) builds a culture of distrust and disharmony.

A student at school 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.

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, if it is done for the purpose of causing embarrassment of individuals or the school, for the purpose of bullying 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.

Students involved in:

- Recording; and/or
- Knowingly being the subject of a recording; and/or
- Disseminating material or messages via text messaging, showing/displaying, internet uploading, Facebook status updates, etc.

May be in breach of this policy and may be subject to discipline processes including suspension and recommendations 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 QPS.

## Text Communication

The sending of text messages that contain obscene language, images and/or threats of violence may amount to bullying, harassment or stalking, and may subject the sender to school based discipline and possible referral to Queensland Police Service (QPS). Students receiving such text messages at school, should ensure they keep the message as evidence and bring the matter to the attention of a responsible adult at home or a staff member.

## 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, recording, 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 should 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 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.

## Exceptions

On some excursions mobile phones may be permitted, students and parents will be informed of this.

Students and their device specified under the schools BYOX arrangements.

***\*Personal Technology Devices includes, but is not limited to, mobile or smart phones and associated linked watches, iPods® and similar, cameras and/or voice recorders, whether or not integrated with a mobile/smart phone or other device.***

---

<sup>1</sup> Education Queensland does not tolerate bullying behaviour at schools. This includes bullying conducted by electronic means.