Personal Technology Devices Policy

This policy is made in accordance with the Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA) policy – SMS - PR – 003: Appropriate use of Mobile Telephones and other Electronic Equipment by Students.

Rationale
Sarina State High School is committed to providing a school environment which maximises the educational opportunities and outcomes for all students. A safe environment is fostered for students to achieve their potential and to encourage respect for self, others and their environment.

Items banned from school
Personal technology devices such as mobile phones, MP3 players, iPods, laptop/notebook computers (excluding items distributed in the school’s 1 to 1 laptop program), cameras and video cameras are not permitted on the school premises. Such devices can be disruptive to the learning environment of all students. These items are often very valuable and there is a risk of damage or theft.

If such items are required for student use before or after school, they must be handed in to the school office for safe keeping during the day. Students, parents and guardians are reminded that no liability will be accepted by the school in the event of loss, damage or theft of any device unless it can be established that the loss, theft or damage resulted from the school’s negligence.

Confiscation
Personal technology devices used contrary to this policy on school premises will be confiscated by staff and may be returned to the student at the end of the day. Students will not be permitted to remove SIM cards before they are confiscated. For a subsequent offence, the device will be confiscated to be collected by a parent at a mutually acceptable time. If a device is kept by the school for the purposes of a disciplinary investigation, it will only be returned to the student in the presence of a parent. Devices containing evidence of criminal offences may be reported to the police. If a student fails to follow confiscation directions this could lead to a suspension. Additionally, students who repeatedly fail to follow the Personal Technology Devices Policy may be suspended.

Recording voice and images
Every member of the Sarina State High School community has a right to have their privacy protected and the right to feel safe at school. Students are encouraged to treat all members of the school community with respect and consideration. It is, therefore, not acceptable to record, photograph, identify or publish personal information about school staff or students. 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 could expect to be afforded privacy).

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 police involvement. 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) may be subject to discipline including suspension or recommendation for exclusion.

Text communication
The sending of text messages that contain obscene language and/or threats of violence may amount to bullying and/or harassment which will have consequences as per our Responsible Behaviour Plan and may involve police referral.

**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 Principal.

*For purposes of this policy, a Personal Technology Device includes, but is not limited to, mobile/smart telephones, games devices, PDAs, BlackBerrys, and/or voice recording devices, iPods, MP3 and MP4 players, laptop/notebook computers, and devices of a similar nature.*