

Mobile Phones & Electronic Devices Policy

At St Pius X OSHC, it is understood that mobile phones are important communication devices which are highly prioritised by children, families and staff members and may be essential in an emergency. As such, the mobile phone policy does not discourage them, but does outline what may, and may not, be appropriate use of mobile phones in OSHC.

St Pius X OSHC and its individual staff members take no responsibility for mobile phones or other electronic equipment which are brought to the service – the responsibility remains with the individual owners of the phones.

Staff members will place phones/devices in a more secure location if requested, but cannot ensure their security. Children will not be able to repeatedly access their phones once they have been stored in the more secure location, as this is too time consuming for staff members, who have many other duties.

Any child found to be using a mobile phone (or other electronic communication device) in inappropriate ways will have the phone (or device) confiscated and their parents contacted. The confiscation period will depend on the level of inappropriate use, but may include indefinitely (the phone may be held by service staff the entire time the child is at the service).

Inappropriate use of mobile phones/devices for children includes:

- Using phone/device while staff members are addressing the child or the group
- Using the phone/device when they have been requested to do something else
- Using the phone/device for bullying or harassment
- Accessing mobile phones/devices which do not belong to them
- Using the phone/device at times when it may be deemed unsafe (eg riding a bike, on a toboggan)
- Sharing inappropriate material to others via a mobile phone or device (eg jokes, pictures, private conversations, inappropriate language)
- Taking photos or videos of other children or adults at the service and sharing

OSHC service staff have a duty of care to all children, so are therefore entitled to request to look at any mobile phone/device which is being shown to other children to ensure it is appropriate. The service will enforce limitations around when children may access their phones or other electronic devices.

Service staff are authorised to have their mobile phones accessible while at work as long as it is not interfering with their work, and in particular, to their duty of care. If a staff member is deemed to be using the mobile phone inappropriately (including excessive use) they will be advised by the director that the phone must be secured with personal property in future and only accessed at designated break times. Staff members are encouraged to carry mobile phones on their person while on excursions, as they are important communication devices and may be critical in an emergency. However, generally staff should not be using their mobile phones while working with the children.