

## **RONDEBOSCH BOYS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL – SGB POLICIES**

### **POLICY: CELL PHONE POLICY**

**POLICY REF. NO. C2/08/2008 (Rev No. 0)**

**DATE: 6 AUGUST 2008**

**No doubt your sons will have spoken to you recently about the use of cell phones at RBPS and the school's attitude to boys having cell phones at school. Whilst we understand that there will be certain times that your son might need a cell phone at school, we believe that this will be the exception rather than the rule.**

#### Why do we believe that a cell phone is not necessary at school:

1. The school has two public phones in the main building, one a card phone and one a pay phone. There is also a public phone outside the Lost Property room, should your son not be able to gain access to the main building to make a phone call.
2. The safety aspect. Primary school boys are easy prey for those criminal elements that target young children to steal their cell phones. If it becomes general knowledge that boys at RBPS are not allowed cell phones, we believe that our boys will be safer from muggings etc.
3. Financial implications for the parents. Replacing stolen cell phones is expensive. The school cannot be expected to look after the phones for the boys and cannot be held responsible if these phones go missing.
4. Boys using their phones during teaching time. It has become quite problematic in some schools where pupils SMS each other during lessons and even pass on answers to each other during tests!! There is also the concern surrounding "MXit" (Mixit).
5. Safe-keeping of cell phones. If our boys were allowed to have cell phones at school, where would they be kept? Logistically it would be a nightmare for the school to manage.

We do understand that there will be special occasions when having a cell phone at school may be necessary. On these occasions we would ask that you send a note to the school, addressed to Mr Ryan, detailing the need for such a request. Once he has granted his approval, the phone will need to be handed in at the office for safekeeping. It can be collected from the office at the end of that day.

#### Consequences of having a cell phone at school without permission:

**Should your son have a cell phone at school, it will be taken away and locked in the school safe. He will also be placed in detention. The phone will have to be collected from the office at the end of that week.**

**Should a second infraction occur, your son will be placed in a Saturday detention. The phone will also be confiscated for a period of four weeks. The phone will have to be collected from the office at the end of that period of time.**

**Should there be a further violation of the school cell phone policy, this will be dealt with as a serious breach of the schools' disciplinary code. A Governing Body Disciplinary Hearing will thus need to be called.**

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We trust you will understand that the above procedure is necessary for the smooth running of the school. It is our wish that you as parents will support us in our endeavour to maintain a safe and harmonious environment at school.

**SIGNED:**

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Chairman RBPS Governing Body

