



# UPPER STURT PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICIES

## WiFi and Wireless Devices

### Purpose

Upper Sturt Primary School is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for our children. Unprecedented long term exposure to wireless computer networks (WiFi) and wireless communication devices in school may present a potential health and safety risk or hazard for children and staff.

WiFi and wireless communication devices such as mobile phones and tablets use microwave radiofrequency. The World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified microwave radiofrequency electromagnetic fields as Group 2B '**possibly carcinogenic to humans**' (May 2011).

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency's (ARPANSA) Fact Sheet 14 *How to reduce exposure from mobile phones and other wireless devices* recommends **reducing unnecessary exposure** to radiofrequency emissions from mobile and cordless phones, other wireless devices and wireless computer networks (WiFi).

As a precautionary approach, Upper Sturt Primary School uses wired computers to safely access the internet. Wired smart boards and telephones have also been installed for educational and administrative purposes.

### ***The Precautionary Principle***

*"When an activity raises threats of harm to the environment or human health, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically."*

[http://www.sehn.org/Volume\\_3-1.html](http://www.sehn.org/Volume_3-1.html)

**Operations:** To reduce exposure to unnecessary microwave radiofrequency emissions.

### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

<b>Leaders</b>	<b>Teachers &amp; SSO</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Parents</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inform staff, parents and students of WiFi and Wireless Devices Policy</li> <li>provide access to wired computers and telephones (no cordless DECT phones)</li> <li>ensure new buildings (if internet access required) include a fully wired ethernet infrastructure</li> <li>use powerline ethernet adaptors which use existing electrical wiring to extend a network</li> <li>recommend mobile phones be switched to flight/airplane mode when not in use and ipods and tablets be used in flight/airplane mode</li> <li>restrict use of microwave oven around children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>limit use of mobile phone on school grounds and use landline where possible</li> <li>turn off mobile phone or switch to flight/airplane mode when not in use</li> <li>keep connected phone away from children</li> <li>wireless devices (tablets/ipods) used for teaching must be in flight/airplane mode</li> <li>avoid use of microwave oven when children are present</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>turn off mobile phone or switch to flight/airplane mode when not in use</li> <li>wireless devices (tablets/ipods) used for learning purposes must be in flight/airplane mode.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>limit use of mobile phone and wireless devices on school grounds</li> <li>turn off mobile phone or switch to flight/airplane mode if spending extended time at school with children eg hearing children read</li> </ul>

