



MOBILE PHONE – STUDENT USE

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Auburn Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to the safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones and other personal devices with similar functions, including smartwatches, by students at school or during school activities.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Auburn Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices, including smartwatches, brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

DEFINITIONS

A mobile phone is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network. "For the purpose of this policy, "mobile phone" refers to mobile phones and any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watches."

POLICY

Auburn Primary School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone or other devices such as a smartwatch to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school or to extra-curricula activities.

At Auburn Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met
- When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office.

Personal mobile phone use

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Auburn Primary School during school hours, including lunchtime and recess, unless an exception has been granted.

Where a student has been granted an exception, the student must use their mobile phone for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.

Secure storage

Mobile phones owned by students at Auburn Primary School are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Students are encouraged not to bring a mobile phone to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so.

Please note that Auburn Primary School does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft. Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items. Refer to the Department's [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy.](#)

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Auburn Primary School can provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Auburn Primary School students are required to store their phones securely in their school bags or handed into the school administration office to be safely secured.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Auburn Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our existing Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy and Bullying Prevention Policy.

In some circumstances, students mobile phones and other personal mobile devices such as smartwatches may be confiscated and stored securely at the school office.

At Auburn Primary School inappropriate use of a mobile phone or a smartwatch is **any use during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted. Examples include but are not limited to:

- in any way that disrupts the learning of others
- to send inappropriate, harassing or threatening messages or phone calls
- to engage in inappropriate social media use including cyber bullying
- to capture video or images of people, including students, teachers and members of the school community without their permission
- to capture video or images in the school toilets, changing rooms, swimming pools and gyms
- during exams and assessments

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy:

- may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically,
 - Health and wellbeing-related exceptions; and
 - Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite.
- can be granted by the Principal, or by the teacher for that class, in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#).

Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted.

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Auburn Primary School will provide students and their parents and carers with information about items that can or cannot be brought to camps, excursions, special activities and events, including personal mobile phones and/or other personal mobile devices such as smartwatches.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- iPads and other personal devices used for educational purposes during school hours

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#)
- [Bullying Prevention Policy](#)
- [Digital Learning \(Internet, Social Media and Digital Devices\)](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	14 May 2024
Consultation	School Council, 2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	2027