

MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Murrumbeena Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and smartwatches, during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Murrumbeena Primary School; including during the Before and After School Hours Care program and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and 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

Murrumbeena Primary School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Murrumbeena 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 (see below for further information)
- 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 Policy issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Murrumbeena Primary School's 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 Murrumbeena 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 Murrumbeena 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.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Murrumbeena Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Murrumbeena Primary School students are required to store their phones. For example, either in their tubs, to remain inside personal school bags inside the school building or handed into the school administration office.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Murrumbeena Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- ICT Policy
- eSmart Policy
- Digital Technologies (Internet, Social Media and Digital Devices) Policy

At Murrumbeena Primary School inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted, and particularly use of a mobile phone:

- 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 tests 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 Policy.

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's Mobile Phones Policy are:

1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)	Unit of work, learning sequence
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	Individual Learning Plan, Individual Education Plan

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan
Students who are Young Carers	A localised student record

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

Murrumbena 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.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to:

- Events outside of school hours
- Travelling to and from school
- iPads and all other personal devices

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- ICT Policy
- eSmart Policy
- Digital Technologies (Internet, Social Media and Digital Devices) Policy
- ICT User Agreement
- Mobile Phones – Department Policy

DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items
- Personal Goods – Department policy

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on October 2019 and is scheduled for review on October 2022.