

WINDSOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

MOBILE PHONES & OTHER PERSONAL DEVICES – STUDENT USE POLICY

A diverse and inclusive community where everyone is respected and has the opportunity to thrive.

Note that this is a Ministerial policy formally issued by the Minister for Education under section 5.2.1(2)(b) of the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic).

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Windsor Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal devices that serve the same purpose (communication and internet access) during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

All students at Windsor Primary School and all devices meeting the definition of a mobile phone or personal device

DEFINITIONS

A mobile phone is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

A personal device is a tool that will allow the student to have direct communication with someone outside of the school and/or will allow them to connect and access the internet (i.e. a smart watch).

POLICY

Windsor Primary School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school. Personal devices such as smart watches are not to be brought to school.

At Windsor 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 — Student Use Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at 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 Windsor 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 Example 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, the school will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Windsor Primary School students are required to store their phones at the main office, handing them in at arrival and collecting them after school has finished.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately will be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies.

At Windsor 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 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;
- can be granted by the Principal, or by the class teacher, in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#).

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#) are:

1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)	Unit of work, learning sequence, teacher request letter for mobile phone use
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

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students on excursions and camps	Risk assessment planning documentation
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel	Risk assessment planning documentation

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

Windsor 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

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Referred to in the school newsletter
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Windsor Primary School Engagement & Wellbeing Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	2019
Approved by and date	Peter Seddon – May 2023
Acknowledged by School Council	
Next scheduled review date	2027

Windsor
PRIMARY SCHOOL