

Approved by Council: 2021

Review date: 2024

PURPOSE

Mobile phones have become an important and invaluable part of our modern lifestyle. The school understands that there are times when possession of a mobile phone can provide a sense of safety and security while travelling to and from school. Mobile phones are unnecessary during school hours as a method of communicating with students given the primary school setting. This policy is to support our Student engagement and Wellbeing policy in working to provide a learning environment that is free from bullying, interruptions in class, distraction and inappropriate photography.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Stratford Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices (*e.g. tablets, smart watches*) brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

IMPLEMENTATION

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

At Stratford Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored at the office 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 Stratford 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 and other devices owned by students at Stratford Primary School are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Please note that Stratford 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.

Students are required to store their phones and devices at the school office at the start of the day where it will be kept in a secure location for the day. Phones and devices need to be turned off before handing into the office. Phones and devices can only be collected by the student owner or his or her parents/guardians (or representative as long as written consent is provided.) Parents/guardians will be contacted

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Stratford Primary School will be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing and future student engagement and wellbeing policies *e.g. Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Bullying Prevention Digital, Learning.*

At Stratford Primary School inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours, including waiting for the school bus at the end of the day** 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; 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](#).

The 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
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 or device for the purpose for which it was granted.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement
- Bullying Prevention
- Digital Learning
- DET [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in 2021 and is scheduled for review on 2024