



STUDENT USE OF MOBILE PHONES POLICY

(includes all cellular devices)

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department of Education and Orchard Grove Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Orchard Grove Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones 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

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

At Orchard Grove 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 on 9894 3400.

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 Orchard Grove 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 Orchard Grove Primary School (OGPS) 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 OGPS 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 [Personal Goods](#) policy.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, OGPS will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so.

Students are required to hand their phones in to their classroom teacher. They will be stored in a locked box in an office area.

ENFORCEMENT

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at OGPS may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy and [Digital Literacy Agreement](#).

At OGPS, inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted, and particularly the 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 anywhere within in the school;
- during assessments.

EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions to the policy may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically,

- o Health and wellbeing-related exceptions; and
- o Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite.

These must be approved by the principal or nominee, in accordance with the Department’s [Mobile Phones Policy](#). A register of exceptions will be kept in the front admin office and shared with all teachers (Google Drive)

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

1. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

| Specific exception | Documentation |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Students with a health condition | Student Health Support Plan |

2. 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 |

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

Orchard Grove 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 iPads.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care - Team Kids (OSHC);

- Out-of-school-hours events;
- Travelling to and from school;
- Smart watches - **All notifications must be switched off.**
- iPads and all other personal devices.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Department policies and guidelines:

DET Policy and Advisory Library:

[Mobile Phones](#)

[Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)

The following school policies are also relevant to this Student Use of Mobile Phone Policy:

- Bullying and Harassment Policy

**To be reviewed:
December 2021**