



MOBILE PHONES AND PERSONAL DEVICES POLICY

Purpose

This policy provides direction to students, staff and families about managing mobile phones and other digital devices that students choose to bring to school. Digital devices include, but are not limited to, smartwatches, tablets or laptops that are not part of a separate Bring Your Own Device arrangement. This policy applies while students are at school, or attending an authorised school activity such as an excursion, during school hours.

Mobile phone use for primary school students

The department's position is that primary aged students cannot use their mobile phones and personal devices at school during school hours. The department and the school recognise that there are legitimate reasons for students to bring a mobile phone or personal device to school. This may include:

- to ensure their safety while travelling
- so that parents can contact them outside of school hours.

During the school day students are not permitted to access or use their mobile phones or other personal devices. Students must switch off or mute their devices before storing them at the beginning of the school day. They will not be able to access their device until the end of the school day.

Storage of personal devices

Students who choose to bring mobile phones or personal devices to school, do so at their own risk. Mobile phones must be switched off or put on silent and stored in the student's school bag upon entering school grounds and may only be used once they leave the school grounds at the end of the day.

If the student does not comply

The leadership team in consultation with the teacher will use their professional judgment to determine the appropriate level and response strategy if a student doesn't comply with this policy.

If confiscation is a consequence for non-compliance, the student's device will be securely stored in the front office which can then be collected at the end of the school day.

There may also be consequences in line with the school's behaviour code and anti-bullying policy, for incidents of misuse of mobile phones and personal digital devices that occur during or out of school hours. These incidents include:

- bullying and harassment
- transmission of explicit images
- photographing, recording or uploading inappropriate content.

Some instances of misuse of a mobile phone or other personal device may constitute a criminal offence, in which case they will be reported to the police.

Roles and responsibilities

Principal

Make sure:

- this policy is clearly communicated and accessible to all students, staff, and families
- there is a process for regular review of the policy
- processes are in place for monitoring internet and school network use by all members of the school community.

Enforce the policy and responses to instances of non-compliance.

Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.

Consider requests for exemptions from the policy from parents on a case-by-case basis. Make sure that approved exemptions are documented and that relevant staff are informed about students' exemptions. Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.

School staff

Deliver learning opportunities and maintain a safe and productive learning environment. Take steps to minimise distractions from the non-educational use of personal devices in the learning environment at times when a device is being used by a student in line with an approved exemption or in circumstances where students' devices are stored in the classroom.

Respond to instances of non-compliance in line with the school's policy.

Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.

Make sure that any student personal devices handed in for their care are stored in a secure location and are returned to the student (or their parent).

Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.

Switch personal mobile phones off or mute during teaching times and meetings. Only answer or make calls in break times or unless previously discussed with leadership eg awaiting an urgent pressing call.

Personal mobile phones must not be used to communicate with parents/carers (ie calls and text messages) - Protective Practices, 2017.

Students

Comply with the requirements of the school's policy and follow all reasonable directions from the Principal and school staff.

If permitted to use a mobile phone or personal device in line with an exemption under this policy, do so in a safe, responsible and respectful way and support peers to do the same.

Communicate respectfully with others and do not use a mobile phone or other personal device to bully, harass or threaten another person.

Respect others' rights to privacy and do not take photos, film or audio records of other people without their knowledge or permission.

Parents

Support the implementation of the school's policy, including the consequences for non-compliance with the policy.

Use the school's formal communication channels in all instances to communicate with the school (including where a student requires early collection from school). Encourage their child to always report to a school staff member in the first instance if they become unwell or experience an issue at school.

Recognise the important role they play in supporting their child to use their mobile phone (or other personal device) in a safe, responsible and respectful way.

Communication and review

This policy has been developed in line with the Department for Education's 'Student use of mobile phones and personal devices policy' and in consultation with the Ascot Park Primary School community. It can be accessed on the school's website.

The policy will be reviewed each year by staff, VOK (Voice of Kids) and the Governing Council.

Supporting information

- school behaviour code
- school anti-bullying policy
- ICT user agreements.