



# Mobile Phones – Student Use

## POLICY

### STRATHAIRD PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### 2019

### Purpose

To explain to our school community the Department's and Strathaird Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones [and other personal mobile devices e.g. smartwatches] during school hours.

### Scope

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Strathaird Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones [and all other personal mobile devices].

### Definitions

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.

### Policy

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

At Strathaird 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 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 Strathaird Primary School during school hours, including lunchtime and recess, unless an exception has been granted by the Principal or Principal's nominee.

Mobile phones should be switched off when a student enters the school in the morning.

Mobile phones can be switched on after school prior to a student leaving the school ground, only for the purpose of checking messages from parents or calling parents. Mobile phones must not be used for any other purpose on the school grounds.

Where a student has been granted an exception, the student must use their mobile phone only 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 Strathaird 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 Strathaird 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, their phones will be stored and secured at the School Office. Students are required to hand their phones in at the School Office before school and collect it after school.

### **Enforcement**

At Strathaird Primary School inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted (see Exceptions section of this policy).

Students who do not hand their mobile phone in at the Office will be issued with consequences consistent with the school's student engagement policies.

Students who do not hand their mobile phone in at the Office and then also use their mobile phones inappropriately will be issued with consequences consistent with the school's student engagement policies.

Mobile phones can be switched on after school prior to a student leaving the school grounds, only for the purpose of checking messages from parents or calling parents. Mobile phones must not be used for any other purpose on the school grounds. Students using mobile phones inappropriately will be issued with consequences consistent with the school's student engagement policies.

## 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 Principal's nominee in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#).

Exceptions may be granted under the following category:

### *1. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions*

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a diagnosed health condition which requires use of a mobile phone	Student Health Support Plan

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

At Strathaird Primary School mobile phones are also banned on camps, excursions and extracurricular activities.

## Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

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

## Related policies and resources

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement
- Code of Conduct
- Mobile Phones – Department Policy

## Review period

This policy was last updated November 2019 and is scheduled for review in November 2022.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

**Julie Kennedy**  
Principal

**Chris Johnstone**  
School Council President