MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the School Office.

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Strathaird Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

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 such as smart watches.

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 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 Strathaird 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.

Mobile phones must be switched off as soon as a student passes the school gate to enter the school grounds in the morning.

At home time, students collect their phones from the School Office, walk to the school gate and turn their phone on to check for parents' messages before leaving the school grounds. Mobile phones must not be used on school grounds for any purpose.

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. Refer to the (Department of Education - Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, their phones will be stored at the School Office. Phones must be handed in before school and collected after school.

Enforcement

Students who fail to comply with this policy may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement polices.

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.

At Strathaird Primary School inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours**, 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 at any location on the school grounds

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 in accordance with the Department's Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy.
- Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted.

Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

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

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

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

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- 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
- Discussed at annual staff meetings
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy
- School Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- School Code of Conduct Policy
- Personal Property Policy
- Bullying Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	September 2023
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	May 2026