

Mobile Phone Policy

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Dandenong South Primary School's policy 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 Dandenong South 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

A mobile phone is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

A smart watch with an active SIM connection that allows outgoing and incoming calls is also classified as a mobile device.

POLICY

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

At Dandenong South Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones/devices to school must have them switched off and securely stored with their classroom teacher or Office staff (as negotiated in consultation with parents) during school hours. The department is requiring all schools to ensure this ban is in place and enforced from the start of the 2024 school year. The ban applies equally to all government schools right across the state. This helps ensure that school is a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions.
- 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 9792 3726.

Personal mobile phone use

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones or devices must not be used at Dandenong South 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/devices owned by students at Dandenong South 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 Dandenong South 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's [Personal Goods](#) policy.

Where students bring a mobile phone/device to school, Dandenong South Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Dandenong South Primary School, students are required to store their phones with their classroom teacher in a locked drawer or at the school's administration office.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones or devices inappropriately at Dandenong South Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Social Media, Digital Learning and Bullying Prevention policies.

At Dandenong South Primary School, inappropriate use of mobile phones is any use during school hours, 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 Policy](#).

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's [Mobile Phones 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
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3. 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.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- iPads and other personal devices

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement
- Digital Learning
- Social Media
- Acceptable Use Agreement
- Code of Conduct
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Personal Goods](#) – Department policy

FURTHER ASSISTANCE

Further information, advice or assistance on any matters related to this policy can be found at <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/students-using-mobile-phones/policy>

REVIEW

This policy was last updated in May 2021 and is scheduled for review as part of our four year cycle or as required.