

MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Avenel Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices, such as Smart watches and similar devices during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Avenel Primary School

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

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

At Avenel Primary School

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours in school office.
- 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 Avenel 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 devices owned by students at Avenel 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 Avenel 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, Avenel Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Avenel Primary School students are required to hand in their devices to the school administration office to be placed in a lockable cupboard.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement polices.

At Avenel Primary School inappropriate use of mobile devices 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 themselves or 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

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 by the teacher for that class, in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#).

The categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#) are:

1. Learning-related exceptions

For specific learning activities (class-based exception)

For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Students with a health condition

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in school newsletter
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	25 th July 2022
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	25 th July 2025