

SPRING GULLY PRIMARY SCHOOL

MOBILE PHONES

POLICY

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Spring Gully Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones during school hours. In addition, this policy relates to other mobile communication devices also, such as smartwatches.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Spring Gully Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices, such as smart watches, 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. 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

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

At Spring Gully Primary School:

- Students who are required to bring mobile phones or smart watches to school must have them switched off and the device must be handed in at the office when they arrive. Students can collect their mobile phones or smart watch from the office at the end of the school day or when they are signed out by a parent/carer.
- Students who use their mobile phone on the school premises, during and after school hours, will have their device confiscated and parents/carers will be contacted. Students will also engage in a restorative conversation with their teacher or leadership staff regarding responsible use of this technology at school.
- 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 Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Spring Gully Primary School during school hours, including lunchtime and recess. Exceptions to this requirement are detailed below.

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 owned by students 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 Spring Gully 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, Spring Gully Primary School will provide secure storage at the office. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing Student Engagement and Wellbeing policy.

At Spring Gully 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
- during class assessments

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically:

- Health and wellbeing-related exceptions, as deemed appropriate by the Principal
- Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite.

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

1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception
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

Specific exception
Students with a health condition, such a diabetes.

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception
Exemption examples outlined in the DET policy in this category are not applicable to primary school aged students or our specific school setting.

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

Spring Gully Primary School does not allow personal mobile phones, iPads/tablets, smart watches or any other electronic devices to be taken by students on excursions, camps or any other activity or event held off the school site. Devices with the capacity to connect to public Wi-Fi pose potential cyber safety risks.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated with our school community via our newsletter and school website.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- *SGPS Student Wellbeing and Engagement*,
- *SGPS Electronic Devices*
- *SGPS Digital Technologies and Cyber Safety*
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated in March 2024