

MWPS MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Melton West Primary School policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices including smartwatches and tablets during school hours

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Melton West 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.

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

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

At Melton West Primary School:

- During school hours, personal mobile devices must be switched off, and secured in the school office. Phones are to be handed in to the office in the morning and collected at the end of the day.
- Students **are not** permitted to access their personal mobile devices during lunchtime or recess, unless they have sought and been granted an exemption to this Policy by the Principal.
- If students are found to have devices in their possession these will be confiscated and stored securely at the school office. Students can pick the device up at the office at the end of the school day.

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 Melton West 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 Melton West 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 Melton West 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 Melton West Primary School Personal Property Policy AND/OR the Department's [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Melton West Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Melton West Primary School students are required to store their phones at the office school office. Phones/devices are to be switched off and signed in/out before and after school daily.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile device inappropriately at school may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and/or *Bullying* policies.

At Melton West 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/personal mobile devices:

- 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 — 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	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

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

Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel	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.

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

In most circumstances, students will not be allowed to bring their personal mobile device on excursions or overnight school camps.

Melton West Primary School will provide students and their parents and carers with information about items that can or cannot be brought to camps, excursions, special activities and events, including personal mobile phones.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- 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
<https://meltonwestps.vic.edu.au/our-school/#policies>
- Included in school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- <https://meltonwestps.vic.edu.au/our-school/#policies>
- School Policy and Advisory Guide: [Students Using Mobile Phones](#)
- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)
- [Weapons — Banning, Searching and Seizing Harmful Items Policy](#)
- [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	24 th April 2023
Consultation	Consultation recommended
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	April 2026