



Mobile Phones (Student Use) Policy



PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Auburn South Primary School's (ASPS) policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices (e.g. smartwatches) during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at ASPS and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices brought onto school premises or on school excursions, camps or sport events 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 smartwatches.

POLICY

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

At ASPS:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored 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 Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at ASPS during school hours (8:00am – 4:00pm), including lunchtime and recess, or on school premises, 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. Use of mobile phones is restricted to calls and SMS only. Mobile phones should not be used at school for any kind of internet access, sharing or app interaction as this usage is unable to be monitored or restricted by the technical infrastructure of the school.

Secure storage

Mobile phones owned by students at ASPS 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 ASPS 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 ASPS's Personal Property Policy and/or the Department's [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#). Where students bring a mobile phone to school, ASPS will provide secure storage. Secure storage is



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storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At ASPS students are required to store their phones in their lockers or handed into the school administration office to be placed in a lockable cupboard.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at ASPS may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies; *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and/or [Student Code of Behaviour](#) and/or [Bullying Prevention and Intervention](#) policies.

At ASPS inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted, and particularly use of 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 and changing rooms
- during assessments

Students misusing mobile phones at school will be brought to the attention of the Principal.

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy:

- may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically,
 - o Health and wellbeing-related exceptions; and
 - o 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



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2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition e.g. a student with diabetes may use their mobile phone to monitor their blood sugar	Student Health Support Plan
Students who are Young Carers e.g. a student providing care to a parent with health issue may need to use their mobile phone to discuss health issues with medical professionals and the person they are caring for, during the school day	A localised student record

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

Mobile phones may not be taken on school excursions, camps or sport events unless specific permission is given for the purpose of using the mobile device to record photos or videos for subsequent classroom or school use.

ASPS 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.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-school-hours care (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- iPads and all other personal devices



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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 staff handbook/manual

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement
- [Student Code of Behaviour](#)
- [Bullying Prevention and Intervention](#)
- [Mobile Phones – Department policy](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)
- [ASPS Uniform Policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was ratified by the Principal in November 2023 and is scheduled for review in November 2026.