

## **Mobile Phones - Student Use Policy**

**Ratified March 2024**

### **Purpose**

To explain to our school community the Department's and Teesdale Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones, smartwatches and iPad's during school hours.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Teesdale Primary School
2. Students' personal mobile phones, smartwatches and iPad's brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

### **Definitions**

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 and iPad's with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

### **Policy**

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

At Teesdale Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored in a nominated locked cupboard 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 — Student Use Policy issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Teesdale 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**



## Teesdale Primary School Policy

Mobile phones owned by students at Teesdale 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 Teesdale 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 [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Teesdale Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Teesdale Primary School students are required to store their phones in the locked cupboard in their classroom, accessible only by staff relevant to that class.

### Enforcement

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

At Teesdale 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 tests or 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**

#### **2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions**



## Teesdale Primary School Policy

### 3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

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

Teesdale 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:

1. Out of school hours care
2. Out of school hours events
3. 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
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings as required
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

#### Related policies and resources

[W ENGAGEMENT AND WELLBEING POLICY 2022.docx](#)

[W Inclusion and Diversity Policy 2022.docx](#)

- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)
- [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)

### POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2024
Consultation	School Council Policy Committee

## *Teesdale Primary School Policy*



Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	March 2027 (3-4 years)