



Student Mobile Phone Usage Policy

Purpose:

To outline St Fidelis Student Mobile Phone Usage Policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal devices such as smartwatches during school hours.

Introduction:

St Fidelis Primary School takes the safe and responsible use of digital technologies seriously. The school acknowledges that we live in a technology-rich world where mobile phones are an important communication tool. Research has found that mobile phones and other devices can be disruptive in classrooms and open to misuse at school. The unregulated presence of mobile phones and other devices in classrooms can undermine students' capacity to think, learn, remember, pay attention and regulate emotion.

St Fidelis Primary School has developed this policy and associated procedure to provide staff members, students, parents and carers with clear guidelines on mobile phone restrictions, exemptions and storage requirements at school.

Scope:

This policy applies to:

1. All students at St Fidelis School, and
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal device such as smartwatches brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

Definitions:

Mobile Phone: is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network. (DET 2020)

"For the purpose of this policy, 'mobile phone' refers to mobile phones and any device that may connect to or has a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watches."

Policy:

St Fidelis Primary School discourages students bringing personal mobile phones to school. It does; however, acknowledge that some students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

Mobile phones are not permitted for use at St Fidelis Primary School during school hours:

- » Students who bring a personal mobile phone to school must switch them off and leave them with their classroom teacher in a secure lockable box at the commencement of the school day and may collect them from the teacher at the conclusion of the school day or if they are required to leave school early.
- » Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see exemptions)
- » When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office.

Implementation:

Personal Mobile Phone Usage:

In accordance with the Department of Education's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at St Fidelis 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:

Personal mobile phones owned by students at St Fidelis 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. (I.e... they are travelling independently to and from school or an exemption has been granted).

Where students bring a personal mobile phone to school, St Fidelis Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so.

Students who bring a personal mobile phone to school must switch them off and leave them with their classroom teacher where it will be placed in a lockable secure box prior to the commencement of the school day and may collect them from the teacher at the conclusion of the school day or if they are required to leave school early.

Students, parents & carers must note that St Fidelis Primary School does not maintain accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft. Students and their parents or carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items.

Enforcement:

Students who fail to secure their personal mobile phone as outlined in the school's Mobile Phone Usage Policy:

First Offence:

- » Will have their device confiscated and returned to them at the end of the school day.
- » The student will receive a verbal warning and be reminded of their responsibility to secure their personal mobile phone in accordance with this policy.

Second Offence:

- » Will have their device confiscated and returned to them at the end of the school day.
- » Contact will be made with the student's parents or carers reminding them of their child's responsibility to secure their personal mobile phone in accordance with this policy.

Third Offence:

- » Immediate contact will be made with the student's parents & carers requesting them to attend school to collect their child.
- » Will have their device confiscated and only returned to their parents or carers upon their arrival at the school to collect their child.
- » A meeting will be scheduled with the parents, carers and their child to discuss disciplinary action which, at the discretion of the Principal or their nominee may include suspension.

Refusal to Comply:

Where a student refuses to comply with the school's Mobile Phone Usage Policy or hand over their personal mobile phone, immediate contact will be made with the student's parents & carers requesting them to attend school to collect their child.

A meeting will be scheduled with the parents, carers and their child, to discuss disciplinary action consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies.

Inappropriate Use of Mobile Phones:

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at **St Fidelis** Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies.

The inappropriate use of personal mobile phones is any use of the device during school hours, unless an exception has been granted. The inappropriate use of a personal mobile phone also includes:

- » The use in any way that disrupts the learning of others;
- » Sending inappropriate, harassing or threatening messages or phone calls;
- » Engaging in inappropriate social media use including cyber bullying;
- » Capturing video, images or voice recordings, of people, including students, staff members and other members of the school community without their permission;
- » Capturing video, images or voice recordings in the school toilets, changing rooms, swimming pools and gyms;
- » Use during testing and assessment.

Exceptions

Exceptions to this policy may be granted on a case-by-case basis. These will be at the discretion of the school leadership team and may include circumstances such as health, safety, wellbeing, or other pastoral considerations.

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

St Fidelis 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

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)
- [Student Behaviour Policy.pdf](#)
- [Bullying Prevention Policy \(including cyberbullying\).pdf](#)
- [Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy.pdf](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	April 2025
Consultation	Consultation with: School Leadership Team School Advisory Board School Staff
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	April 2028