

Mobile Phone Policy

North Melbourne Primary School

Issue Date: February, 2020

Review Date: February, 2022





MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department of Education and North Melbourne Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones & smart watches during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at North Melbourne Primary School
2. Students' personal mobile phones and 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

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

At North Melbourne Primary School:

- 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 North Melbourne 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 owned by students at North Melbourne 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 North Melbourne 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 [Personal Goods policy](#).



Where students bring a mobile phone to school, North Melbourne Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At North Melbourne Primary School students are required to store their phones with their classroom teacher on their arrival to school. These phones will be placed securely in a storeroom.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at North Melbourne Primary School may be issued with consequences.

At North Melbourne 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, 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 Policy.

Exceptions allowed under the Department's Mobile Phones Policy are:

Health and wellbeing-related exceptions:

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan
Students who are Young Carers	A localised student record

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

North Melbourne Primary 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.

Mobile phones are not permitted to be taken by students on camp or excursions in Australia. This is due to multiple reasons:

- The Education Department ban on mobile phones in schools
- Security of the phones
- Photo permissions of other children attending the camp
- Safety of all children

This ban includes phones that have no SIM card in them.

Students will be allowed to bring mobile phones to any international camp (e.g USA Steam camp).

On International Tours, students are permitted to take their mobile phones, to ensure they are able to make contact with parents/carers whilst away. However, mobile phones are only to be used in for this purpose and/or as a camera, when permission to do so has been granted by the International Tour Leader.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to:

- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- iPads and all other personal devices

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

[Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated in February 2020 and is scheduled for review in February 2022.