

Student Mobile Devices Policy

Background

At Huntingdale Primary School, we discourage students from bringing expensive personal electronic devices to school. However, we understand that some students need mobile phones for security reasons e.g. travelling on public transport.

For the purpose of this policy, “mobile device” refers to any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as an iPad and ‘smart’ watches.

Purpose

To ensure:

- That the Huntingdale School community understand DET’s policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices during school hours.
- Students, parents and teachers understand their rights and responsibilities of using mobile devices at school.
- Maintain the DET values of leadership, respect, responsiveness, human rights, integrity, impartiality and accountability.

Implementation

- The Principal has the overall responsibility of implementing this policy, but may delegate certain roles to suitably qualified staff.
- This policy applies to:
 1. All students at Huntingdale Primary School and,
 2. Students’ personal mobile devices brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.
- Huntingdale Primary School understands that students may bring a personal mobile device to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school. At Huntingdale Primary School:
 - Students who choose to bring mobile devices to school must have them switched off and securely stored at the school office during school hours.
 - When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school office.

Personal mobile phone use

- In accordance with the Department’s [Mobile Phones Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile devices must not be used at Huntingdale 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 device for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.



Secure storage

- Mobile devices owned by students at Huntingdale 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 device to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so.
- Please note that Huntingdale 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 Huntingdale Primary School’s Personal Property Policy and DET’s [Personal Goods policy](#).
- Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Huntingdale Primary School will provide secure storage at the school office. *Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so.*

Enforcement

- Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Huntingdale Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school’s existing Student Engagement Policy.
- At Huntingdale 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, in accordance with the Department’s [Mobile Phones Policy](#).

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department’s [Mobile Phones Policy](#) are as follows:

Specific exception	Documentation
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	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
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel	Enrolment documents Individual Education Plan

Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile device for the purpose for which it was granted.

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

- Huntingdale 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 devices

Exclusions

- This policy does not apply to
 - Out-of-school-hours events where parents are in charge of their children
 - Travelling to and from school

Related Policies and Resources

- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three- year cycle or as needed to comply with DET policy changes.

Document Status

Reviewed	School Council Ratification	Next Review
October 22 – DET policy changes	N/A	October 2021