

Moonee Ponds West Primary School



Mobile Phones – Student Use

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Moonee Ponds West Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones, smart watches and other mobile devices that may have similar functionality to a phone during school hours.

DEFINITIONS

For this policy, a **mobile phone** is a telephone (or smart device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone, such as a smart watch) with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Moonee Ponds West Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones or other personal mobile devices, such as a Smart Watch, brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

POLICY

Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours, including recess and lunchtime, unless an exception has been granted by the Principal.

Mobile phones owned by students at Moonee Ponds West Primary School are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's and/or parent's/carer's) risk. Students are encouraged not to bring a mobile phone to school unless there is compelling reason to do so. Please note that Moonee Ponds West 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.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Moonee Ponds West Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Moonee Ponds West Primary School, students are required to store their phones at the General Office upon arrival, where the device will be labelled and stored securely.

When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office.

EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions to the policy:

- May be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met.
- Can be granted by the principal in accordance with this policy.
- Must be documented.

The policy will be reviewed as part of the review cycle, in line with DET policy and directives. Due to be reviewed in 2022



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

Learning-related exceptions:

- For specific learning activities (class-based exception).
- For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability and/or learning difficulty.

Health and wellbeing-related exceptions:

- Students with a health condition.

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

EXCLUSIONS

In the following circumstances, the new mobile phone policy does not apply:

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC). Policy not applicable, as attendance falls outside of school hours.
- Out-of-school-hours events. Policy not applicable as attendance falls outside of school hours.
- Travelling to and from school. Policy is not applicable when travel falls outside of school hours.

References

This policy must be read in conjunction with:

- Ministerial Policy formally issued by the Minister for Education under section 5.2.1 (2)(b) of the Education and Training Reform Act 2006.
- Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items.
- Student Engagement.
- Reporting and Managing Emergencies and Incidents.
- Personal Goods.