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**MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE**

**Help for non-English speakers**

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the general office on 5571 1478 for further details.

**Purpose**

To explain to our school community the Department’s and George Street Primary School’s policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones [and other personal mobile devices, including SMART watches consisting of mobile access] during school hours.

**Scope**

This policy applies to:

All students at George Street Primary School.

**Definitions**

**A mobile phone** is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network. A SMART watch is considered a mobile phone

**Policy**

George Street Primary School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school, however this will be submitted to their teacher for safe keeping.

At George Street Primary School

* Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours in the school safe
* 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](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/students-using-mobile-phones/policy) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at George Street 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 George Street 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 George Street 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](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/claims-property-damage-and-medical-expenses/policy).] for further details.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, George Street Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At George Street Primary are required to hand into the school administration office to be placed in a lockable cupboard.

**Enforcement**

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at George Street Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school’s existing student engagement polices

*Student Wellbeing and Engagement*, *Bullying* policies, Mobile Phone policy

At George Street 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.
* Permission can be granted by the Principal, in accordance with the Department’s [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/students-using-mobile-phones/policy).

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department’s [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/students-using-mobile-phones/policy) are:

For health and wellbeing related exceptions, which may include: a student with diabetes who may use their mobile phone to monitor their blood sugar; a young carer providing care to a parent with health issue may need to use their mobile phone to discuss health issues with medical professionals and the person they are caring for, during the school day].

***1. Learning-related exceptions***

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| Specific exception | Documentation |
| For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty  | Individual Learning Plan, Individual Education Plan |

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

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

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

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| Specific exception | Documentation |
| Travelling to and from excursions | Risk assessment planning documentation |
| Students on excursions and camps | Risk assessment planning documentation |

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**

George Street 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

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

**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
* Included in school newsletter
* Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
* Included in transition and enrolment meetings /processes
* Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
* Hard copy available from school administration upon request

**Related policies and resources**

* *Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Code of Conduct, Personal Property, Bullying*
* [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/students-using-mobile-phones/policy)
* [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/claims-property-damage-and-medical-expenses/policy)

**POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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| --- | --- |
| Policy last reviewed | 31 /8 /2022 |
| Consultation | Staff 31 /8 /2022 |
| Approved by | Principal  |
| Next scheduled review date | 31 /8 /2024  |