

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Birmingham Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices (including smart watches) during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Birmingham Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices 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, Birmingham Primary School's definition of a mobile phone extends to include devices with communication capabilities and includes smart watches with access to a cellular network and Bluetooth devices that can be connected to mobile phones to transmit information and enable communication.

POLICY

Birmingham Primary School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone or wearable mobile device to school, **particularly if they are travelling independently to-and-from school.**

At Birmingham Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and 'discreetly' stored (i.e.: in school bag, or by arrangement with classroom teacher) 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 office on 9736 3260.

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 Birmingham 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.

Storage

Mobile phones owned by students at Birmingham 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 Birmingham 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.](#)***

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Birmingham Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing *Student Wellbeing and Engagement policies*. At Birmingham 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](#).

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

1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception: For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty

Documentation: Approved Individual Learning Plan, Approved Individual Education Plan

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception: Students with a health condition

Documentation: Student Health Support Plan

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Birmingham 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. Contact details for these events will be provided to parents in order for appropriate communication to be made.

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

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Travelling to and from school

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- ICT and the Use of Digital Technologies Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- [Code of Conduct, Students – Department Policy](#)
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items – Department Policy](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

REVIEW and ENDORSEMENT

Policy last reviewed	September 2020
Approved by	Principal – Trish Enzinger
Next scheduled review date 3-4 years	October 2024

This Policy will be available to the school community on the [Birmingham Primary School Website](#)