



# Drysedale Primary School

## MOBILE PHONE POLICY

### PURPOSE

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

### SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Drysdale 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.

NOTE: For the purpose of this policy, 'mobile phone' and 'smart watch' refers to mobile phones and any device such as a smart watch that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone.

### POLICY

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

At Drysdale Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored at the school office 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 — Student Use Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Drysdale Primary School during school hours, including lunchtime and recess, unless an exception has been granted by the Principal team.

Where a student has been granted an exception, the student must use their mobile phone or smart watch for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.

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## Secure storage

Mobile phones and smart watches owned by students at Drysdale 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 Drysdale 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](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone or other device to school, Drysdale Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Drysdale Primary School students are required to store their phone by handing it into the school administration office to be placed in a secured room.

Students at Drysdale Primary School are permitted to wear smart watches during school hours. The ability to connect to a cellular network, make calls, send text messages and direct message anyone is to be disabled between the hours of 9:00am and 3:30pm.

## Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phone or smart watch inappropriately at Drysdale Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies *Student Wellbeing and Engagement*, *Code of Conduct*, *Acceptable Use* policies and *School Wide Positive Behaviour* protocols.

At Drysdale 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 and or smart watch:

- 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

Enforcement options comply with the Department's [Weapons — Banning, Searching and Seizing Harmful Items](#) policy.

## 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.

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- can be granted by the Principal team, or by the teacher for that class in consultation with the Principal team, in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#).
- For any exception to be granted, a Student Support Group meeting is to be held to discuss the need of the device and the boundaries in place for its use.

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

## 1. Learning-related exceptions

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 discussed at a Student Support Group

## 2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan

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

### Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Drysedale 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 and smart watches. The smart watch needs to be disabled for the duration of camp/excursion if a student wears one.

### Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Camps and excursions
- Travelling to and from school
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience

## COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:



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# Drysdale Primary School

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in school newsletter
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent/carer information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)
- [Weapons — Banning, Searching and Seizing Harmful Items](#)
- [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)

## REVIEW

This policy was reviewed in September 2021 and is scheduled for review in September 2023.

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