

# MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school office.

## PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Parkhill Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones during school hours.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Parkhill Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones brought onto school premises during school hours, including recesses.

## 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, "mobile phone" refers to mobile phones and any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone including phone call capability such as smart watches.

## POLICY

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

At Parkhill Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored (as defined below) 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 Parkhill 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 Parkhill 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 Parkhill 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 Parkhill Primary School's Personal Property Policy and the Department's [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Parkhill Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Parkhill Primary School students are required to hand in to their teacher to store their phones in a secure location in their classrooms. It is the students responsibility to collect their device at the end of the day.

Smart watches (or similar devices) are not encouraged. Smart watches that do not have phone call capability are not subject to secure storage requirements.

## Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Parkhill Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies including the Student Wellbeing and Engagement policy, Community Essential Agreement and Acceptable Use Agreement.

At Parkhill 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 learning
- 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

## 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 — Student Use Policy](#).

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

Please refer to the [Camps and Excursions policy](#) for more information about Mobile Phones on extracurricular activities.

### Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

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

### RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Student Wellbeing and Engagement policy](#)
- [Parkhill Community Essential Agreement](#)
- [Personal property policy](#)
- [Bullying Prevention policy](#)
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)

### COMMUNICATION

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

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

### RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#)
- [Parkhill Community Essential Agreement](#)
- [Personal Property Policy](#)
- [Bullying Prevention Policy](#)
- [Mobile Phones – Student Use Policy](#)
- [Weapons – Banning, Searching and Seizing Harmful Items](#)
- [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)

### POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	May 2025
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	December 2027