

MOBILE PHONES (STUDENT USE PURPOSE)

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Wandin North Primary School
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, "mobile phone" refers to mobile phones and any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watches.

POLICY

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

At Wandin North 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 office
- 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 Wandin North 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 devices owned by students at Wandin North 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 Wandin North 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 to school, Wandin North Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Wandin North Primary School students are required to hand any mobile device in to the school administration office to be placed in a lockable cupboard. Hand over must happen immediately upon the students arrival at school.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Wandin North Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies including Wandin North Primary School's Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Inclusion and Diversity, Digital Learning and Bullying Prevention policies.

At Wandin North 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:

- having a mobile device in a backpack or on the person during school hours
- 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
- Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Such exemptions can be granted by the principal, or by the teacher for that class, in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#).

Parents should refer to these exceptions and request further information if required.

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

Wandin North Primary School event coordinators 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. Reminders that mobile devices are not to be brought on these activities will be included on event packing lists.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC) – ThierCare will provide information surrounding there program and policies as required

- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

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

EVALUATION AND REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in July 2021
This policy is scheduled for review in July 2025