

MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain to our school community the Department of Education’s and Hampton Primary School’s policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices including smartwatches during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- All students at Hampton Primary School and,
- Students’ personal mobile phones [and other personal mobile devices including smartwatches] brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime. This policy does not relate to student iPads brought to school as part of the Year 4 – 6 BYO iPad Program.

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 similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smartwatches.

Inappropriate use of mobile phones can be defined as a failure to sign in a mobile phone in the classroom secure box.

IMPLEMENTATION

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

At Hampton Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored 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 Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Hampton 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 Hampton 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 Hampton 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.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Hampton Primary School will provide secure storage. At Hampton Primary School students are required to sign in and place their phone/smart watch in the

lockable classroom safe provided. Students are responsible for collecting and signing out their phone at the end of the day.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Hampton Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy*.

At Hampton Primary School inappropriate use of mobile phones and other mobile devices is **any use during school hours** (unless an exception has been granted).

Exemptions

Exemptions to this policy may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically, Health and wellbeing-related exceptions. Exemptions can be granted by the principal or school nurse, in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones 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

Hampton 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 Care (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- iPads

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways (DELETE UNNECESSARY):

- Annual reminders in our school newsletter
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in the Parent Handbook
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

POLICY REVIEW & APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	February 2024
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	Review every 3 years