

MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- All students at Goonawarra Primary School and,
- Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile/cellular 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

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

At Goonawarra Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours at the administration 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 Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Goonawarra 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/cellular devices owned by students at Goonawarra 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 Goonawarra 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 Goonawarra Primary School Personal Property Policy AND/OR the Department's [Personal Goods policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Goonawarra Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Goonawarra Primary School students are required to store their phones at the administration office (it will be labelled and placed in a locked cupboard with limited access).

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Goonawarra Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement e.g. *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and *Code of Conduct*.

At Goonawarra 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 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 principal nominee, in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#).

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

Note: Some examples of health and wellbeing related exceptions may include: a student with diabetes may use their mobile phone to monitor their blood sugar.

1. 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 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

- [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#)
- [Code of Conduct](#)
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Personal Property Policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated and approved by school council in November 2019 and is scheduled for review on November 2022.