

# Personal Mobile Devices and Phones Policy (Student Use) Brighton Primary School

## PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Brighton Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and devices at school or during school activities.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Brighton Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and 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.

**Personal mobile devices** are portable computing and communication devices such as smartphones, tablets and smart watches.

For the purpose of this policy 'mobile phone' may also refer to mobile phones and any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watches.

## POLICY

Brighton Primary School understands that students may bring a personal mobile device to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school or engaging in extra curricular activities. Personal mobile devices must not be used during school hours at any time.

At Brighton Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile devices to school must have them switched off and securely stored in their school bags during school hours
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see below for further information). Exemptions must be made via a written request from the parent or carer to a principal class member
- When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office on (03) 9592 0177

## Personal mobile phone use

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones/devices must not be used at Brighton 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/device for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.

In regards to smart watches, Brighton Primary School requests that students have communication capabilities disabled during school hours and that such devices are used as watches and step counters only.

### **Insurance**

Mobile phones/devices owned by students at Brighton 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/device to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that Brighton 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 the Department's [Personal Goods policy](#).

### **Secure storage**

Where students bring a mobile phone/device to school, Brighton Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Brighton Primary School students are required to store their mobile phones in the school bags which are kept indoors in locked rooms/corridors at recess and lunch times.

### **Enforcement**

Students who use their personal mobile phones/devices inappropriately at Brighton Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement polices, eSmart policy or Digital Technologies agreement.

At Brighton 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 tests and assessments

### **Exceptions**

Exceptions to the policy:

- may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically,
  - Health and wellbeing-related exceptions;
- can be granted by the principal, in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#).

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

### **1. Learning-related exceptions**

<b>Specific exception</b>	<b>Documentation</b>
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)	Unit of work, learning sequence
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

### **2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions**

<b>Specific exception</b>	<b>Documentation</b>
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan
Students who are Young Carers	A localised student record

Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted in a safe and ethical way.

### **Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities**

In most circumstances, student will not be allowed to bring their personal mobile devices on overnight school camps or excursions. All necessary communication will be facilitated by the teachers/staff in charge of the camp, excursion or event. Brighton Primary School will provide students and their parents/carers with information about items that can be brought to special activities and events.

### **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 Engagement Policy](#)
- [eSmart Policy](#)
- [Digital Technologies Agreement](#)
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

### **REVIEW PERIOD**

This policy was last updated in June 2020 is scheduled for review in 2024