

MOBILE PHONE AND WEARABLE COMMUNICATION DEVICES POLICY

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Strathfieldsaye Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other wearable communication 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. **A wearable communication device** is a watch or other personal device that can be used to access a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

POLICY

Strathfieldsaye Primary School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone or a wearable communication device to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Strathfieldsaye Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours. Wearable communication devices, such as watches, can be switched on throughout the day, but the communication function must be turned off 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 or wearable communication devices must not be used at Strathfieldsaye 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 only use their mobile phone or wearable communication device for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.

Secure storage

Mobile phones or wearable communication devices owned by students at Strathfieldsaye 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 Strathfieldsaye 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 [Personal Goods policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone or wearable communication device to school, Strathfieldsaye Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Strathfieldsaye Primary School students are required to hand their mobile phone into the school administration office to be placed in a lockable cupboard. Wearable communication devices, **such as watches**, can be switched on throughout the day, but the communication function must be turned off during school hours.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Strathfieldsaye Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies.

At Strathfieldsaye Primary School **inappropriate use** of mobile phones is **any use during school hours** unless an exception has been granted. Inappropriate use of a wearable communication device is **any use of the communication function during school hours** unless an exception has been granted. **Inappropriate use** particularly refers to use of a mobile phone or wearable communication devices such as watches..

- 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

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 Policy](#).

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

1. Specific learning needs

Specific exception	Documentation
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 Education Plan

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

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

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students on excursions and camps	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel	Risk assessment planning documentation

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

Strathfieldsaye 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
- School Approved iPads and Tablets

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Strathfieldsaye PS Policies - Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Code of Conduct,
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated in February 2021 and is scheduled for review in 2024.