



# MOBILE PHONES

## Student Use Agreement

### Policy

Policy review team members:

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This policy was last ratified by School Council on 25.11.2019

### Rationale:

At Mt Eliza Primary School we take the safe and responsible use of digital technologies, student safety and wellbeing, and the development of social skills and positive behaviour, very seriously. On this basis, we support the announcement from the Victorian Government that states that a new mobile phone policy would take effect from Term 1 2020.

Whilst we acknowledge that we live in a technology-rich world where mobile phones are an important communication tool, research has found that mobile phones can be disruptive in classrooms and open to misuse at school. The unregulated presence of mobile phones in classrooms can undermine students' capacity to think, learn, remember, pay attention and regulate emotion.

At recess and lunchtime, opportunities for students to communicate with each other face-to-face or be involved in physical activity are also valued, rather than students being focused on a mobile phone, particularly when they are using it to engage with social media.

This policy will remove a major distraction from our classrooms, so that teachers can teach and students can learn in a more focused, positive and supported environment.

### Aims:

#### PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Mt Eliza Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and smartwatches during school hours.

#### SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Mt Eliza Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and/or smartwatches 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.

### Implementation:

Mt Eliza Primary School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone and/or a smartwatch to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Mt Eliza Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and given to their classroom teacher.
- Student mobile phones will be securely stored during school hours in lockable storage in the classroom.
- 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 on 97871385.
- Students may wear smartwatches, however **notifications must be switched off**, to avoid disruptions in class.

### **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 Mt Eliza 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 and smartwatches owned by students at Mt Eliza 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 Mt Eliza 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 to school, Mt Eliza Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Mt Eliza Primary school students are required to hand their mobile phone to their teacher to be placed in a lockable storage unit.

### **Enforcement**

Students who use their personal mobile phones and/or smartwatches inappropriately at Mt Eliza Primary School, must hand the item(s) to a member of staff. If a student at Mt Eliza Primary School refuses to hand over the item(s) to a staff member, the student will be issued with consequences consistent with our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and *Bullying* policies.

At Mt Eliza Primary School inappropriate use of mobile phones and smartwatches 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 and swimming pools
- 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; 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. Learning-related exceptions

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 Learning Plan, 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

## Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis: November 2020

School Council President:

Signature:

Date: