

Mobile Phone - Student Use Policy

North Melbourne Primary School

Issue Date: June 2024

Review Date: June 2028



MOBILE PHONES - STUDENT USE POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school office on (03) 9329 6902.

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department of Education and North Melbourne Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones & smart watches during school hours. Please note, this policy encompasses both our Molesworth Street and Errol Street campuses.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at North Melbourne Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and smart watches 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

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

At North Melbourne 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.

School Council consulted on this policy on 20th June 2024.



Personal mobile phone use

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at North Melbourne 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 North Melbourne 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 North Melbourne 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 [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, North Melbourne Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At North Melbourne Primary School students are required to store their phones with their classroom teacher on their arrival at school. These phones will be placed securely in a storage area.

Enforcement

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

At North Melbourne 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 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.

School Council consulted on this policy on 20th June 2024.



- can be granted by the Principal, or by the teacher for that class, in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#).

Exceptions allowed under the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#) are:

Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

North Melbourne 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 events
- Travelling to and from school
- iPads and all other personal devices

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2024
Consultation	Consultation with School Council occurred on 20th June, 2024.
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	June 2028

School Council consulted on this policy on 20th June 2024.