

MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school by calling 5439 7232.

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Axedale Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile 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 and includes wearable devices such as Smartwatches.

POLICY

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

At Axedale Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones/smart watches to school must have them switched off and securely stored at the Office 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 — Student Use Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Axedale 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 Axedale 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/smart watch to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that Axedale 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.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Axedale Primary School will provide secure storage in the Office. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Axedale Primary school students are required to store their phones at the Office on arrival to school and pick them up at the end of the day. [insert appropriate wording here to reflect your school's arrangement for mobile phone storage. For example, either in their lockers or handed into the school administration office to be placed in a lockable cupboard etc].

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Axedale Primary school may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies such as our *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and/or *Code of Conduct* or *Bullying* policies.

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

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use 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
Students on excursions and camps	Risk assessment planning documentation
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	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

Axedale 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

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in school newsletter
- Included in staff handbook
- Discussed at annual staff meeting
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	September 2024
Consultation – School Council	17 th September 2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	September 2028