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# MOBILE PHONES

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## PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and The Patch PS 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 The Patch PS and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile 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. "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

At The Patch PS:

- 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 careers 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 must not be used at The Patch PS 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 The Patch PS 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 The Patch PS 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, The Patch PS will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At The Patch PS students are required to store their phones safely with their class teacher who will secure the phones in a lockable space.

## Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at The Patch PS school may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies e.g. Student Wellbeing and Engagement and Code of Conduct Bullying policies.

At The Patch PS 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 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 |

### 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

The Patch PS 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

#### RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- *Student Wellbeing and Engagement,*
- *Code of Conduct,*
- *Personal Property,*
- *Bullying*
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)

#### REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on 2019 and is scheduled for review on Dec/2022.