

Ratified by School Council:

Review Date:

Rationale

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

Aims

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Burnside Primary School 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.

Implementation

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

At Wedge Park 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.

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 Burnside 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 Burnside 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 Burnside 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 of Education (DET) [Personal Goods policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Burnside Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Wedge Park Primary School, students are required to store their phones in the library (please see below for details)

- The library will be open from 8:40am daily for students to store their phones away
- Students will sign their phone in, place in a container and hand over to Burnside Primary School staff member
- The students phone will be placed in a locked storage cupboard
- At 3:05pm the library will be open for students to collect their phone and sign it out

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Burnside Primary School will be issued with consequences consistent with our school’s existing student engagement policies Student inclusion and engagement policy

At Wedge Park 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 Policy](#).

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

1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception
For specific learning activities
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception
Students with a health condition
Students who are Young Carers

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception
Travelling to and from excursions
Students on excursions and camps
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel

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

Burnside 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
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school

Further Information and Resources

- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)