



POLICY: MOBILE PHONES - STUDENT USE

PURPOSE:

To explain to our school community the Department of Education and Training and Brentwood Park Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones.

DEFINITION:

A mobile phone is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

AIMS:

This policy will help focus students' attention on learning in the classroom by providing them with:

- a safe environment to learn without distractions or inappropriate phone use.
- social interaction and physical activity during recess and lunchtimes without distractions or inappropriate phone use.

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Brentwood Park and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Brentwood Park understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, due to the fact that they travel independently to and from 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.
- 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 of Education and Training Mobile Phones Policy issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used 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 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 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, the school will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so.

Enforcement

- Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's Code of Conduct.
- 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

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically, health and wellbeing-related exceptions

- can be granted by the principal, or by the teacher for that class, in accordance with the Department of Education and Training Mobile Phones Policy.
- where an exception is granted, the student can use the mobile phone only for the purpose for which it was granted.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed in 2022.

APPROVED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL: 12/11/2019