POLICY: MOBILE PHONES and COMMUNICATION DEVICES -STUDENT USE

Help for non-English speakers
If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact 9702 2022.

PURPOSE:
To explain to our school community the Department of Education and Brentwood Park Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones/smart watches/iPads during school hours.

DEFINITION:
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 any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone, such as smart watches and iPads.

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 communication devices (mobile phone, smart watch, or iPad) 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.

Brentwood Park understands that students may bring a personal smart watch to school, due to the fact that they travel independently to and from school.

- Students who choose to bring smart watches will be responsible for the care of them.
- Students are not to contact anyone during school hours.
- When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office.

Brentwood Park has a Bring Your Own iPad program operating in years four to six and students are to use the iPad for school related purposes and not as a communication device to contact parents or to communicate socially with peers during school hours.

Personal mobile phone use

- In accordance with the Department of Education's Mobile Phones-Student Use Policy issued by the Minister for Education, personal communication devices 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 communication device for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical, and responsible manner.

Secure storage

- Communication devices 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 or smart watch 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. A smart watch can be worn at the owner's risk of loss or damage. The smart watch is not to be used during school hours for communication. Therefore, parents need to ascertain the risk.

Enforcement

- Students who use their communication devices inappropriately may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's Code of Conduct.
- Inappropriate use of communication devices during school hours:
    - 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's Mobile Phones-Student Use Policy
- where an exception is granted, the student can use the communication device only for the purpose for which it was granted. Grounds for exemption in a primary school would be a student with a health condition.

COMMUNICATON:

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

- Available publicly on school website
- Placed in the newsletter
- Discussed at staff meetings as required
- Included in staff induction processes

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

The following Department of Education policy is relevant to this Mobile Phones-Student Use Policy:

- Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy

The following school policies are also relevant to this policy:

- Child Safety Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Statement of Values
- Student Wellbeing and Discipline Policy
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	13/5/2025
Consultation	Consultation with Brentwood Park School Council
Approved by	James Bell, principal and school council
Next scheduled review date	May 2029