



Mobile Phones Student Use

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Guthrie Street's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Guthrie Street Primary School and their personal mobile phones brought onto school premises before (8am-8:45am) during and school hours, including recess and lunchtime and after school (3:15pm-3:30pm). This policy also applies to school events such as concerts, sporting events, school camps etc that may occur after school hours.
2. Other personal mobile devices, eg smartwatches

DEFINITIONS

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

POLICY

At Guthrie Street 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.
- If a student is found to have used a smartwatch for similar functions to a phone, eg texting, social media, phone calls etc then the smart watch shall be classified in the same category as inappropriate use of a mobile phone and the same consequences listed below shall apply.

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 Guthrie Street 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 Guthrie Street 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 Guthrie Street 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, Guthrie Street Primary School will provide secure storage at the front office. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. Students are required to hand in their mobile phone at the front office on arrival to school. They must sign their phone in with a staff member of the school and sign out phone at the end of the school day.

Enforcement

Students who do not sign in their mobile phone at the front office may have their phone confiscated by a staff member. If this occurs, a phone call will be made to parents / carers to discuss this issue and deal with consequences as deemed necessary by the school Principal.

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](#).

Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated in 2019 and is scheduled for review during 2021

This policy was updated in 2020