

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Brunswick South Primary School

Policy Implementation Date	Review Date	Responsible for Review
March 2024	March 2026	Policy Subcommittee

Purpose

To explain to our school community the Department's and Brunswick South's 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 Brunswick South 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

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 smartwatches.

Policy

Brunswick South Primary School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Brunswick South Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours
- 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 — Student Use Policy issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Brunswick South 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 Brunswick South 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 Brunswick South 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, Brunswick South Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Brunswick South Primary School students are required to hand their mobile phone into the school administration office and to be placed in a lockable cupboard.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Brunswick South Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Code of Conduct and Bullying policies.

At Brunswick South 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 tests and assessments

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy:

- can be granted by the Principal, or by the teacher for that class, in accordance with the Department's Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy.

The health and wellbeing related exceptions may include: a student with diabetes may use their mobile phone to monitor their blood sugar; a young carer providing care to a parent with health issue may need to use their mobile phone to discuss health issues with medical professionals and the person they are caring for, during the school day.

Specific exception documentation

Brunswick South 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 (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school

Communication

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in school newsletter
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

Related Policies

Student Wellbeing and Engagement
Code of Conduct
Bullying

Policy review and approval

Policy last reviewed August 2022

Next scheduled review date 2025