

MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school on 03 9555 4155 during office hours.

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Bayside Special Developmental School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Bayside Special Developmental School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones 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.

POLICY

Bayside Special Developmental School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school.

At Bayside Special Developmental 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 — Student Use Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Bayside Special Developmental 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 Bayside Special Developmental 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 Bayside Special Developmental 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's [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#).

Enforcement

At Bayside Special Developmental 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

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 — Student Use Policy](#).

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

1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)	Student Learning & Behaviour Support Plan Work Program
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	Individual Education Plan Student Learning & Behaviour Support Plan

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition e.g. to monitor blood sugar levels.	Student Health Support Plan



3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
Students on excursions and camps	Risk assessment planning documentation

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

Bayside Special Developmental 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 events
- Travelling to and from school
- iPads and all other personal devices

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Please see our school website for related relevant policies - [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Child Safety Code of Conduct and Bullying Prevention Policy](#)

Related Department policies:

- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)
- [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)



POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	August 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	August 2027

