

# ASPENDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Mobile Phones – Student Use Policy

### **PURPOSE**

To explain to our school community the Department's and Aspendale Primary School'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 Aspendale 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**

**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 mobile phones and any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watches and iPad's (messaging or call functions).

### **POLICY**

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

At Aspendale 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.

### **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 Aspendale 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 Aspendale 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 Aspendale 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. Refer to the Department's Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Aspendale Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Aspendale Primary School students are required to store their phones place the mobile phone into their class box. This box will be stored securely at the administration office.

### Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Aspendale Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and/or *Code of Conduct* or *Bullying* policies.

At Aspendale 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, on excursions and in the playground areas
- during exams and assessments

### 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)	Unit of work, learning sequence
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	Individual Learning Plan, Individual Education Plan

## ***2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions***

<b>Specific exception</b>	<b>Documentation</b>
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan
Students who are Young Carers	A localised student record

## ***3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite***

<b>Specific exception</b>	<b>Documentation</b>
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment planning documentation – school to advise if this exception has been met through written communication in each circumstance.
Students on excursions and camps	Risk assessment planning documentation – school to advise if this exception has been met through written communication in each circumstance.
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	Risk assessment planning documentation – school to advise if this exception has been met through written communication in each circumstance.
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel	Risk assessment planning documentation – school to advise if this exception has been met through written communication in each circumstance.

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**

Aspendale 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, sporting 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
- iPads and all other personal devices when used for learning tasks

### **COMMUNICATION**

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

<b>Evaluation</b>	To be reviewed by the Education Subcommittee
<b>Approval/Consultation</b>	Principal/Recommended with School Council
<b>Date Ratified</b>	February 2023
<b>Next Review Date</b>	February 2026
<b>Related Policies</b>	
<b>Related Documents</b>	
<b>DET Link to Policy</b>	