



## MOBILE PHONE – STUDENT USE POLICY



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Moonee Ponds Primary School on 9375 2511.

### PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Moonee Ponds Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices (including smart watches) during school hours.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Moonee Ponds 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 iPads.

### POLICY

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

At Moonee Ponds 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 Moonee Ponds 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 Moonee Ponds 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 Moonee Ponds 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, Moonee Ponds Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Moonee Ponds Primary School students are required to store their phones by handing them into the school administration office to be placed in a lockable cupboard.

## Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Moonee Ponds Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies (Student Engagement Policy- <http://www.mpp.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/MPPS-Student-Wellbeing-and-Engagement-Policy-2022.pdf> ).

At Moonee Ponds 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

## 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

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan

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

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment planning 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

Moonee Ponds 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

Wearable devices are excluded from the policy, however, if they are brought to school, they are not to be used as a mobile phone and students must switch off all notifications during the school day.

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school

### **RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

- [Student Engagement Policy](#)
- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)
- [Weapons — Banning, Searching and Seizing Harmful Items](#)
- [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)

### **POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Consultation	School Council and shared through the school newsletter and website (Aug-Oct)
Approved by	Principal at October 2024 SC meeting
Next scheduled review date (4 years)	2028