



MOBILE PHONE POLICY

RATIONALE

In accordance with Ministerial Order 1049 and the Department of Education and Training's Mobile Phone Policy, Richmond Primary School has adopted this policy.

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Richmond Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices, such as smart watches during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Richmond Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices, such as smart watches 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."

IMPLEMENTATION

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

At Richmond 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 Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Richmond 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 Richmond 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 Richmond 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, Richmond Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Richmond Primary School students are required to store their phones with their class teacher at the beginning of the school day, to be stored in a secure place. Students will be given back their phone at the end of the school day.

Enforcement

Staff at Richmond Primary School should instruct students to hand over their phone(s) item and if a student refuses to hand over the item(s), implementation of the relevant disciplinary provision within the Student Code of Conduct will apply.

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Richmond Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's Internet Use and Mobile Phone Agreement, existing Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy and Internet Usage Policy.

At Richmond 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,
- during tests and other 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 Policy](#).

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

1 Learning-related exceptions

- For specific learning activities (class-based exception)
- For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty

2 Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

- Students with a health condition

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

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

Richmond 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 and smartwatches.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school once off school grounds

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Child Safe Policy, Internet Usage and Mobile Phone Agreement
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on November 2019 and is scheduled for review on November 2022.