



PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICES

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community Footscray North Primary School's policy requirements, and expectations regarding the safe and appropriate use of mobile devices by students, at school or during school activities.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- all students at the school
- all personal devices that have not been approved by the school for the purpose of carrying out and engaging in the teaching and learning of the curriculum

DEFINITIONS

Personal mobile devices are portable computing and communication devices such as smartphones, tablet computers and smart watches.

POLICY

The school understands that students may bring personal devices to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school or to extra-curricular activities.

During school hours, mobile devices must be:

- switched off, and carried on the student's person, or
- stored securely at the school office.

Students are permitted to access their mobile devices during lunchtime and recess only, unless otherwise authorised by a supervising teacher e.g. where phones may be used for e-learning or other learning activities.

Mobile device use

Mobile devices must not be used:

- during class or assemblies or 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 and gym.

Students who use their mobile devices inappropriately at school may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's *Student Wellbeing & Engagement Policy* and the *Bullying Prevention Policy*.

In some circumstances, students' mobile phones may be confiscated and stored securely at the general office

Insurance

Students are responsible for their mobile devices. Please note that the school does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage. Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items, including mobile phones that may be brought to school. Students are responsible for items brought to school.

Camps and Excursions

In some circumstances, students' mobile phones may be confiscated and stored securely at the general office. In these circumstances, the mobile device will be returned to the student or their parent/carer at the end of the day.

Students **are not** permitted to access their personal mobile devices during lunchtime or recess, unless they have sought and been granted permission from a supervising teacher or have been granted an exemption to this Policy by the Principal.

There may be circumstances in which a student may apply to the Principal for an exemption from this policy on the basis of safety and/or wellbeing requirements particular to that student. If this is the case, please contact the Principal.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide: [Students Using Mobile Phones](#)

Reference:

www.education.vic.gov.au/principals/spag/safety/pages/mobilephones.sapx

Please refer also to the school's *Bullying Prevention Policy*, *Responding to Student Sexual Offending Policy*, the *Photographing & Filming Children Policy* and the *Student Wellbeing & Engagement Policy*.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy, first developed in this format in May 2019 and updated in August 2019, will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET update early May 2019).

The [Mobile Devices Page](#) was updated to clarify expectations regarding the need for schools to update any local policies on mobile devices, in light of the Ministerial Announcement on 26 June 2019 that mobile phones will be banned for all students at Victorian government schools from Term 1 2020, with some exceptions. Further information is expected in Term 4 2019.

This update was ratified by School Council 9th December 2019