

MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Hawthorn West Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and smartwatches during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Hawthorn West Primary and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and smartwatches 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."

POLICY

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

At Hawthorn West Primary

- 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 Hawthorn West Primary 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 and smartwatches owned by students at Hawthorn West Primary 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 or a smartwatch to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that Hawthorn West Primary 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 [Personal Goods policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone or smartwatch to school, Hawthorn West Primary will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Hawthorn West Primary students are required to hand in their phones and smartwatches to their classroom teachers who will store their phones in lockable storage in the PLC office.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Hawthorn West Primary school may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and *Bullying* policies.

At Hawthorn West 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
- 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 Policy](#).

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

1. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

| Specific exception | Documentation |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Students with a health condition | Student Health Support Plan |
| Students who are Young Carers | A localised student record |

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

Hawthorn West 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

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

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- *Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Code of Conduct, Personal Property, Bullying etc.*
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

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