



# Wantirna South Primary School

## Mobile Phones – Student Use Policy

### Rationale

At Wantirna South Primary School we are committed to ensure the students are kept safe at all times, and provided with the best opportunity to learn. In line with the Department guidelines built on the Ministerial policy expectation of mobile phone use at school, Wantirna South Primary School engages clear expectation to mobile phone use in the school environment. Wantirna South Primary School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

### Aims

Based on this rationale the aims of the policy are to:

- Explain to our school community the Department's and Wantirna South Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices during school hours.
- Ensure all students at Wantirna South Primary School are aware of the policy and protocols in relation to 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.

### Implementation

Consistent with these aims this policy shall be implemented according to the following guidelines:-

At Wantirna South Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours
- 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 Wantirna South 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 Wantirna South 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 Wantirna South 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, Wantirna South Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Wantirna South Primary School students are required to store their phones in the locked security room located in the administration office. Administration staff will collect and return the phones at the commencement or end of the day.

## Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Wantirna South Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies [Student Wellbeing Guidelines.]

At Wantirna South 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

The exceptions related to the community in this 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*

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
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	No mobile devices required for this event.
Students on excursions and camps	No mobile devices required for this event.
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	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**

Wantirna South 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

- Travelling to and from school
- iPads and all other personal devices
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience
- Students who are undertaking VET

#### **RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

- Mobile Phones – Department Policy
- Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items
- Personal Goods – Department policy

#### **Evaluation**

This Policy will be reviewed as part of a three year cycle or as directed by School Council.

This Policy was ratified by School Council in 2018.