



# Primary Student use of Mobile Phones and Personal Devices

## Purpose

This policy provides direction to students, staff and families about managing mobile phones and other digital devices that students choose to bring to school. Digital devices include, but are not limited to, **smartwatches, tablets or laptops that are not part of a separate Bring Your Own Device arrangement**. This policy applies while students are at school, or attending an authorised school activity such as an excursion, during school hours.

## Mobile phone use for primary school students

The department's position is that primary aged students cannot use their mobile phones and personal devices at school during school hours. The department and Morphett Vale Primary School recognise that there are legitimate reasons for students to bring a mobile phone or personal device to school. This may include:

- to ensure their safety while travelling
- so that parents can contact them outside of school hours.

During the school day, students are not permitted to access or use their mobile phones or other personal devices. Students must switch off or mute their devices before storing them at the beginning of the school day with their class teacher. They will not be able to access their device until the end of the school day.

## Storage of personal devices

Students will be expected to hand their mobile phones to their class teacher at the beginning of the school day for storing in a locked cupboard. Alternatively students may choose to keep their phones in their bags at their own risk.

## If the student does not comply

If students do not follow the school's mobile phone policy their phone will be confiscated and stored securely in the Front Office. The phone will be returned to the student at the end of the school day in the first instance.

Continued misuse will result in consequences in line with our Student Behaviour Education Policy.

## Roles and responsibilities

### Principal

Make sure:

- this policy is clearly communicated and accessible to all students, staff, and families



- there is a process for regular review of the policy
- secure storage is provided for student personal devices that are handed in to school staff.
- processes are in place for monitoring internet and school network use by all members of the school community.

Enforce the policy and responses to instances of non-compliance.

Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.

Consider requests for exemptions from the policy from parents on a case-by-case basis.

Make sure that approved exemptions are documented and that relevant staff are informed about students' exemptions.

Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.

### School staff

Deliver learning opportunities and maintain a safe and productive learning environment. Take steps to minimise distractions from the non-educational use of personal devices in the learning environment at times when a device is being used by a student in line with an approved exemption or in circumstances where students' devices are stored in the classroom.

Respond to instances of non-compliance in line with Morphett Vale Primary School's policy.

Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.

Make sure that any student personal devices handed in for their care are stored in a secure location and are returned to the student (or their parent).

Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.

### Students

Comply with the requirements of Morphett Vale Primary School's policy and follow all reasonable directions from the Principal and school staff.

If permitted to use a mobile phone or personal device in line with an exemption under this policy, do so in a safe, responsible and respectful way and support peers to do the same.

Communicate respectfully with others and do not use a mobile phone or other personal device to bully, harass or threaten another person.

Respect others' rights to privacy and do not take photos, film or audio records of other people without their knowledge or permission.

## Parents

Support the implementation of Morphett Vale Primary School's policy, including the consequences for non-compliance with the policy.

Recognise the important role they play in supporting their child to use their mobile phone (or other personal device) in a safe, responsible and respectful way.

Reviewed: March 2021

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