**MOBILE PHONE POLICY**

**Help for non-English speakers**

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact the office on 5998 2304.

**PURPOSE**

To explain to our school community the Department’s and Devon Meadows Primary School’s policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones during school hours.

**Scope**

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Devon Meadows Primary School and,
2. Students’ personal mobile phones 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 and iPads.”

**GUIDELINES**

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

At Devon Meadows 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 — Student Use Policy](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/students-using-mobile-phones/policy) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Devon Meadows 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 Devon Meadows 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 Devon Meadows 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. Refer to the Devon Meadows Primary School’s [Personal Property Policy.](https://www.devmead.vic.edu.au/page/168/Policies)

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Devon Meadows Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Devon Meadows Primary School students’ phones should be named and handed to the office on arrival at school. They are to be kept in the office during the day and collected at 3.30pm.

**Enforcement**

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Devon Meadows Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school’s existing student engagement polices, e.g. [Student Wellbeing and Engagement](file://\\3924afs01\Users\School%20Policies\Students%20who%20use%20their%20personal%20mobile%20phones%20inappropriately%20at%20Example%20school%20may%20be%20issued%20with%20consequences%20consistent%20with%20our%20school’s%20existing%20student%20engagement%20polices%20%5binsert%20the%20name%20of%20the%20relevant%20policy\policies%20at%20your%20school%20e.g.%20Student%20Wellbeing%20and%20Engagement%20and\or%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20or%20Bullying%20policies.%5d), [Child Safety Code of Conduct](file://\\3924afs01\Users\School%20Policies\Students%20who%20use%20their%20personal%20mobile%20phones%20inappropriately%20at%20Example%20school%20may%20be%20issued%20with%20consequences%20consistent%20with%20our%20school’s%20existing%20student%20engagement%20polices%20%5binsert%20the%20name%20of%20the%20relevant%20policy\policies%20at%20your%20school%20e.g.%20Student%20Wellbeing%20and%20Engagement%20and\or%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20or%20Bullying%20policies.%5d) or [Bullying Prevention](file://\\3924afs01\Users\School%20Policies\Students%20who%20use%20their%20personal%20mobile%20phones%20inappropriately%20at%20Example%20school%20may%20be%20issued%20with%20consequences%20consistent%20with%20our%20school’s%20existing%20student%20engagement%20polices%20%5binsert%20the%20name%20of%20the%20relevant%20policy\policies%20at%20your%20school%20e.g.%20Student%20Wellbeing%20and%20Engagement%20and\or%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20or%20Bullying%20policies.%5d) policies.

At Devon Meadows 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

Should a student have a mobile phone at school without seeking approval, the phone will be kept at the office until collected by the child’s parent.

**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 in accordance with the Department’s [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/students-using-mobile-phones/policy).

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department’s [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/students-using-mobile-phones/policy) are:

***1. Learning-related exceptions***

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| --- | --- |
| Specific exception | Documentation |
| 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***

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| --- | --- |
| Specific exception | Documentation |
| Students with a health condition | Student Health Support Plan |

***3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite***

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| --- | --- |
| Specific exception | Documentation |
| Travelling to and from excursions | Risk assessment planning documentation |
| Students on excursions and camps | Risk assessment planning documentation |

To be granted an exception, permission from the Principal must be sought by the parents in writing. They must have outlined the health, safety or personal reasons that justify the student bringing a mobile phone to school.

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**

Devon Meadows 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

**COMMUNICATION**

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

* Available publicly on our school’s website
* Included in staff induction processes and staff training
* Included in school newsletter
* Included in staff handbook/manual
* Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
* Included in transition and enrolment packs
* Hard copy available from school administration upon request

**Related policies and resources**

* [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/students-using-mobile-phones/policy)
* [Personal Property Policy](https://www.devmead.vic.edu.au/page/168/Policies)
* [Weapons — Banning, Searching and Seizing Harmful Items](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/weapons/policy)
* [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/claims-property-damage-and-medical-expenses/policy)

**EVALUATION**

This policy will be reviewed every two years as part of the school’s cyclic review process.



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| --- | --- |
| Policy last reviewed | May 2024 |
| Approved by | Principal  |
| Next scheduled review date | May 2026 |