

MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Carrington Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices during school hours.

Mobile phones are an important communication tool, however they can be improperly used, lost or damaged and must therefore be effectively managed.

Given that mobile phones have the capacity for photography, video recordings, unfiltered internet connections and audio recording, appropriate security and operating procedures need to be established.

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, personal tablets etc.

POLICY

STAFF USE OF MOBILE PHONES:

- The school will purchase and maintain enough mobile phones and service contracts to satisfy its needs.
- Teachers in charge of all excursions must ensure that a fully charged mobile phone accompanies each trip.
- All staff on excursions will leave their phone numbers with office staff.

STUDENT USE OF MOBILE PHONES:

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

At Carrington 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 USE OF MOBILE PHONES:

In accordance with the Department's Mobile Phone Policy issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Carrington 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 Carrington 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 Carrington 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 Department's Personal Goods policy.

- Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Carrington Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Carrington Primary School students are required to hand their mobile phones to the office for secure storage.

ENFORCEMENT:

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Carrington Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement and behaviour management practices.

At Carrington Primary School inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted, and particularly the 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:

- Learning-related exceptions
- Health and wellbeing-related exceptions
- Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

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

Carrington 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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	18/7/2022
Consultation	School Council meeting
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	1/1/2026