



MACEDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Macedon Primary School and,
2. Students' 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.

POLICY

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

At Macedon 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 Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Macedon 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 Macedon 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 Macedon 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, Macedon Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Macedon Primary School students are required to sign their phones in before 9:00am and out after 3:30pm at the front office. The phones will be stored securely in a lockable cabinet.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Macedon Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies [Behaviour Management Policy](#)

At Macedon 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. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)	Unit of work, lesson planning
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	Individual Learning 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

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students on excursions and camps	Risk assessment planning documentation
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel	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

As a rule, Macedon Primary School does not permit electronic devices such as mobile phones on camps and excursions except with prior approval from the Principal. The Principal will only approve students bringing electronic devices such as mobile phones to a camp or excursion in exceptional circumstances and when it is in the best interests of the student, and may place conditions on its location and use during the camp or excursion. This is outlined in our [Camps and Excursions policy](#).

Macedon 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.

Outside School Hours Care

Where students bring a mobile phone to school and attend either before or after school hours care, Macedon Primary School OSHC will provide secure storage for mobile phones. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Macedon Primary School students attending OSHC are required to sign their phones in when they arrive at OSHC.

Before School Hours Care

In the morning, students are to sign their mobile phone in with the OSHC staff and sign it back out when they leave OSHC and then take the phone to the front office for safe storage during the school day. The mobile phones will be stored securely in a lockable cabinet.

After School Hours Care

In the afternoon, students are to sign their phone in with the OSHC staff for safe storage and sign it back out when they leave OSHC with their parents or guardian. The mobile phones will be stored securely in a lockable cabinet.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- iPads and all other personal devices

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated in February 2020 and is scheduled for review in February 2023.