

MOBILE PHONE POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the Parktone Primary School front office.

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Parktone Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices (such as smartwatches) during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Parktone 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" also 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 similar devices.

POLICY

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

At Parktone Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored in the school's mobile phone security case, 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.
- Teachers are not to be on their mobile phones, or other devices with a similar functionality, during class times. An iPad is provided for staff to use for educational purposes.
- Students are permitted to wear smartwatches during school hours, provided they are set to flight mode or have all access to apps and the internet disabled. These settings must be visibly verifiable by staff upon request.

Personal mobile phone use

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Parktone 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 and similar devices owned by students at Parktone 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 Parktone 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 Parktone Primary School's Personal Property Policy.

In line with the Department Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses Policy, students and parents/carers are responsible for a student's personal item/property, including if it is lost, stolen or damaged at school. Claims for the reimbursement of the cost of a personal item/property brought to school will not be paid by the school and are not covered by school insurance. For further information, please see: [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses Policy](#)

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Parktone Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Parktone Primary School, mobile phones will be collected at the commencement of the school day by a designated teacher. Mobile phones will be signed in by the teacher and student. The same procedure will happen at the end of the day with mobile phones being signed out.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Parktone Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing Student Engagement and Inclusion Policy.

At Parktone 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 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 — Student Use Policy](#).

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use 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

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

Parktone 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

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)
- [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses Policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

Policy Review and Approval

Policy last reviewed	November 2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	October 2028 (review 3-4 years)