



Quarry Hill Primary School

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MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Quarry Hill Primary School and,
2. Students' mobile phones and personal mobile devices, such as smartwatches, brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

DEFINITIONS

A 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

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

At Quarry Hill 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 Quarry Hill 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 Quarry Hill Primary School are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Please note that Quarry Hill 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, Quarry Hill Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Quarry Hill Primary School students are required to store their phones by handing them into the school administration office to be placed in a lockable cupboard. If students do not hand their phones in, no responsibility will be taken for loss of valuable items.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Quarry Hill Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies (Student Wellbeing and Engagement policy, Bullying Prevention and Intervention policy).

At Quarry Hill 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 to:

- in any way that disrupts the learning of others
- send inappropriate, harassing or threatening messages or phone calls
- engage in inappropriate social media use including cyber bullying
- capture video or images of people, including students, teachers and members of the school community without their permission

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 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 eg a student with diabetes may use their mobile phone to monitor their blood sugar;	Student Health Support Plan

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

Quarry Hill 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
- iPads

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- [Bullying Prevention & Intervention Policy](#)
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on December 2022 and is scheduled for review on December 2024.