



Bethal Primary School

Mobile Phones - Student Use Policy

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Bethal Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other mobile devices, such as smart watches, during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Bethal Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other mobile devices 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

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

At Bethal Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and **securely stored at the Main Office** 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](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Bethal 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 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 Bethal 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 Bethal Primary School's Personal Property Policy.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Bethal Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Bethal Primary School students are required to store their phones at the main office where it will be stored in a lockable cupboard/room.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Bethal Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing Student Wellbeing and Engagement and/or Bullying Prevention policies.

At Bethal 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 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 students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability, learning difficulty or external service provider e.g. Smith Family	Individual Education Plan Principal class approval

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan
Smartwatches for wellbeing purposes e.g. self-timer, regulating heartbeat etc.	Teacher and parent approval

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Not applicable at Bethal Primary School
Students on excursions and camps	Not applicable at Bethal Primary School
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	Not applicable at Bethal Primary School
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel	Not applicable at Bethal Primary 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

Bethal 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 events
- Travelling to and from school
- Wearable devices without network connectivity

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- *Student Wellbeing and Engagement,*
- *Code of Conduct,*
- *Personal Property,*
- *Bullying Prevention*
- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)
- [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated in June 2021 and is scheduled for review in June 2024.