

Mount Waverley Primary School
Mobile Phone – Student Use Policy



'Achieving Excellence Together'

2020

Principal: Greg Paine

School Council President: Michael Seelig



MOUNT WAVERLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mobile Phone – Student Use Policy

RATIONALE

The Victorian Government takes the safe and responsible use of digital technologies, student safety and wellbeing, and the development of social skills and positive behaviour, very seriously. On this basis, the Hon. James Merlino MP, Minister for Education, announced that a new mobile phone policy would take effect from Term 1 2020.

Whilst the Victorian Government acknowledges that we live in a technology-rich world where mobile phones are an important communication tool, research has found that mobile phones can be disruptive in classrooms and open to misuse at school. The unregulated presence of mobile phones in classrooms can undermine students' capacity to think, learn, remember, pay attention and regulate emotion.

At recess and lunchtime, opportunities for students to communicate with each other face-to-face or be involved in physical activity are also valued, rather than students being focused on a mobile phone, particularly when they are using it to engage with social media.

This new policy acknowledges that technology is increasingly affecting how students learn and communicate. Therefore, when a student has been given explicit permission to access and use such devices to enhance learning by the classroom teacher, mobile phones will be permitted for that specific purpose. For a small number of students with particular learning or health and wellbeing needs, an exception to the policy may also be granted.

This policy will remove a major distraction from our classrooms, so that teachers can teach, and students can learn in a more focused, positive and supported environment.

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Mount Waverley Primary Schools' policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices with wifi connectivity (e.g. smart watches) during school hours.

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Mount Waverley Primary School (MWPS) and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones [and other personal mobile devices] brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy, "mobile phone" refers to mobile phones and any device that may have wifi capacity, external communication connectivity or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watches.

POLICY GUIDELINES

MWPS understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone or smart watch to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At MWPS:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones and smart watch devices to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours
- Exceptions to this policy may be granted by the school Principal and 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 and smart watches must not be used at MWPS 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 or smart watch for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.

Secure storage

Mobile phones and smart watch devices owned by students at MWPS 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 or smart watch to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that MWPS does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage. 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, MWPS will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At MWPS students are required to store their phones and smart watches in the lockable container provided in each classroom.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones or smart watches inappropriately at MWPS will be instructed to handover the item and issued with consequences consistent with our school's Student Engagement, Wellbeing and Inclusion Policy, Class Code of Cooperation and ICT Agreement.

At Mount Waverley Primary School inappropriate use of mobile phones or smart watches are **any use during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted, and particularly use of a mobile phone or smart watch devices:

- 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 class time and assessments

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy may be granted by the school Principal following recommendations from the class teacher and Student Support Group. These exceptions may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, under these categories:-

- Learning related exceptions
- Health and wellbeing-related exceptions; and

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

Where an exception is granted by the school Principal, the student can only use the 'mobile phone or smart watch device' in an adult supervised learning environment, with time limits and for the purpose for which it was granted.

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Students are not permitted to bring phones or smart watches to camps, excursions, special activities and events.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to:-

- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- iPads

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THIS POLICY

- MWPS Student Engagement, Wellbeing and Inclusion Policy
- MWPS ICT Agreement
- MWPS Classroom Code of Co-operation
- MWPS Child Safe Environment Policy
- Mobile Phones – Department Policy

EVALUATION

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

Policy Area: Student Wellbeing	Reviewed by School Council: February 2020	Next Review: 2023
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