# MACARTHUR STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL

# MOBILE PHONE USE POLICY

**Help for non-English speakers**

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school 5332 4746.

## PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Macarthur Street School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices eg. Smart watches during school hours.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Macarthur Street 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.

## POLICY

We understand that students may need to bring a personal mobile phone to school on occassion, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Macarthur Street Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored at the 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 Macarthur Street 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 Macarthur Street 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 Macarthur Street 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.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Macarthur Street Primary School will provide secure storage at the front office. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Macarthur Street Primary School students are required to store their phones at the front office at the commencement of the day. These will be returned at the end of the school day. Phones are to remain in the student's bags until handed to the front office.

## Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Macarthur Street Primary School may be asked to hand the phone to a staff member and have their parents contacted.

At Macarthur Street 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 — 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

Macarthur Street 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

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy
- [the below are optional references to Department policy ]
- Weapons — Banning, Searching and Seizing Harmful Items
- Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

| | |
|---|---|
| Policy last reviewed | 16/04/2024 |
| Approved by | School Council |
| Next scheduled review date | April 2028 |