

# SOUTH YARRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

## MOBILE PHONES AND OTHER PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICES (STUDENT USE) POLICY



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the General Office.

### PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and South Yarra Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices during school hours

### SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at South Yarra 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" 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

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

At South Yarra Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones and other personal mobile devices 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 and other digital device use

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices must not be used at South Yarra 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 and other personal mobile devices for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.

### Secure storage

Mobile phones and other personal mobile devices owned by students at South Yarra 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 or other personal mobile device to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that South Yarra 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, South Yarra Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At South Yarra Primary School students are

required to store their mobile phones and other personal mobile devices in their school bag at the commencement of the school day. Mobile phones are to remain in the student's school bag until the end of the school day.

## Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices inappropriately at South Yarra Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies *e.g. Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and *Bullying* policies.

At South Yarra Primary School inappropriate use of mobile phones and other personal mobile devices is **any use during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted, and particularly use of a mobile phone or other personal mobile device:

- 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

In 2019, the Minister for Education James Merlino announced mobile phones were banned for all students at Victorian state primary and secondary schools from Term 1 2020. The aim of this policy is to reduce distraction, tackle cyber bullying and improve learning outcomes for all students. This year we are seeing more students across the school wearing smart watches. Please note we do not encourage these watches to be worn and would prefer they remain at home for the reasons outlined by the Minister for Education.

At South Yarra Primary School, parents of students who carry a mobile phone and other personal mobile devices need to inform the Principal or Assistant Principals in writing as to why their child requires the device. If approved, cellular devices (mobile phones, 4G tablets and smart watches) are not to be used by students during the school day. Any communication with your child during school hours, should be done via the office. This policy also covers devices used for communication / filming such as smart watches.

## Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy:

The category of exception below is allowed under the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)

### *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, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted.

## Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

South Yarra 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 and other personal mobile devices.

## Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school

## COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website (or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method)
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in school newsletter
- Web link to all policies is included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

[Mobile Phones— Student Use Policy](#) (DET Policy)

- [Weapons — Banning, Searching and Seizing Harmful Items](#) (DET Policy)
- [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#) (DET Policy)
- SYPS Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy – see SYPS Website: [southyarraps.vic.edu.au](http://southyarraps.vic.edu.au)
- SYPS Digital Learning Devices Policy - see SYPS Website: [southyarraps.vic.edu.au](http://southyarraps.vic.edu.au)

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 12, 2022
Consultation	Education Committee, June 14, 2022 School Council, June 2022
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	June, 2025