

SOUTH YARRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

PERSONAL MOBILE PHONES

POLICY



PURPOSE

To explain to our school community South Yarra Primary School's policy requirements, and expectations regarding the safe and appropriate use of mobile phones and other personal mobile devices by students, during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at South Yarra Primary School and,
2. Student's personal mobile phones and other personal electronic devices brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, 'mobile phone' refers to mobile phones and any personal mobile 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 device to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored in their school bag 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 Device Use

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones 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 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/ 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.

South Yarra Primary School students are required to store their phones or other personal mobile / electronic devices in their school bags.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones or 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/or *Code of Conduct* or *Bullying* policies.

At South Yarra Primary School inappropriate use of mobile phones or personal digital devices 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, recordings or voice recordings of people, including students, teachers and members of the school community without their permission
- to capture video or images, recordings or voice recordings 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 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	Student Health Support Plan

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	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 extra-curricular activities

Students will not be allowed to bring their personal mobile device on overnight school camps or excursions. 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 digital devices.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

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

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)
- SYPS Student Wellbeing and Engagement,
- SYPS eSmart and Cybersafety Policy
- SYPS Digital Technologies (Internet, Social Media and Digital Devices)
- SYPS School Policy and Advisory Guide: [Students Using Mobile Phones](#) (and other personal mobile devices)
- [School Policy and Advisory Guide: Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated in February, 2024 and is scheduled for review in February, 2027.