

Mobile Phone – Student Use Policy

Date: February 2023

Review: February 2026



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Strathtulloh Primary School office on 8560 4600 to utilise an interpreter service.

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Strathtulloh 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 Strathtulloh 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

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

At Strathtulloh Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours (refer to Secure Storage below)
- 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 on 8560 4600.

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 Strathtulloh 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 devices owned by students at Strathtulloh 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 Strathtulloh 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 Strathtulloh Primary School's Personal Property Policy AND/OR the Department's [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Strathtulloh Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Strathtulloh Primary School students are required to store their phones by handing all devices into the school administration office on arrival at school in the morning to be placed in a lockable cupboard.

Enforcement

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

At Strathtulloh 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 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

Strathtulloh 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 Care (OSHC) refer to Their Care
- 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 – The Pulse
- Included in induction processes for relevant staff
- Included on Compass under the School Documentation Menu
- Included in school news methods such as The Pulse Check and Compass direct emails sends
- Included on our Staff Information Portal
- Discussed in an annual staff briefing/meeting
- Discussed at parent information sessions

- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Strathtulloh Primary School policies and resources relevant to this policy include:

- *Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy*
- *Child Safety Code of Conduct*
- *Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations Policy and Procedures*
- *Inclusion and Diversity Policy*
- *Strathtulloh Primary School Child Safety Induction Pack*

Department policies:

- [Mobile Phones – Student Use Policy](#)
- [Weapons – Banning, Searching and Seizing Harmful Items](#)
- [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)
- [Equal Opportunity and Anti-Discrimination](#)
- [Child Safe Standards](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2023
Consultation	Presented to community via Compass and The Pulse 1st March 2023 Presented to School Council 23rd March 2023
Approved by	Principal – Kris White
Next scheduled review date 3-4 Year cycle	March 2026