Wonthaggi North Primary School

Mobile Phones Policy

Student use

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Wonthaggi North Primary School on (03) 5672 4697 or wonthaggi.north.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Wonthaggi North Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices such as smartwatches, during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Wonthaggi North Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices eg smartwatches 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 smartwatches.

POLICY

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

At Wonthaggi North Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones 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 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 Wonthaggi North 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 Wonthaggi North 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 Wonthaggi North 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 Wonthaggi North 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, Wonthaggi North Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Wonthaggi North Primary School students are required to store their phones in the school administration office to be placed in a lockable cupboard.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Wonthaggi North Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement polices, *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and/or *Code of Conduct* or *Bullying* policies.

At Wonthaggi North 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 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.

Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan

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

Wonthaggi North 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 eg smartwatches.

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
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in school newsletter
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Child Safety Code of Conduct
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy
- Weapons — Banning, Searching and Seizing Harmful Items
- Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2026
Consultation	School Council 16.03.2026
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	Before March 2029