

MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school office on 9890 1560 or via email at surrey.hills.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's Surrey Hills Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices (including smart watches) during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Surrey Hills 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. Watches or other devices that can take video footage, photographs or voice recording functionality are included as a 'personal mobile device'.

POLICY

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

At Surrey Hills 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 Surrey Hills 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 Surrey Hills 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 Surrey Hills 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 Surrey Hills 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, Surrey Hills Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Surrey Hills Primary School students are required to store their phones /other personal mobile devices at the school administration office. They will be placed in a dedicated secure phone/mobile device locker. Students are to collect their phone/mobile device at the end of the school day.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones or other personal mobile device inappropriately at Surrey Hills Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies *e.g. Student Wellbeing and Engagement, eLearning and Digital Technologies (Digi-Tech) and Digital Technologies Code of Conduct* policies.

At Surrey Hills 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)	Will not be required as students will have access to appropriate technology/devices provided by the school
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

Note: An example of health and wellbeing related exceptions may include: a student with diabetes may use their mobile phone to monitor their blood sugar.

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite (not including medical/health and well-being related exceptions)

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	N/A - students will not require phones for excursions
Students on excursions and camps	N/A - students will not require phones for excursions or camps
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	N/A – all primary aged students will be supervised
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel	N/A – students not travelling between campuses

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

Surrey Hills 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. Students are not to bring personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices to camps, excursions, special activities and events, unless they have an exception listed above and have been given permission prior to the activity/event, by the Principal or Assistant Principal.

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
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Surrey Hills Primary School’s relevant policies on our [school website](#)
 - *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy,*
 - *Child Safety Code of Conduct,*
 - *Personal Property Policy, and*
 - *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 2023
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	March 2026 - March 2027 (3 to 4 years)