



RYE PRIMARY SCHOOL

MOBILE PHONES POLICY

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Rye 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 Rye Primary School and,
2. Covers 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 and tablet computers.

POLICY

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

At Rye Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must switch them off and securely store them in the office during school hours
- For exceptions to the above requirement see 'Exceptions' below
- In emergency situations parents or carers wanting to reach their child should call 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 Rye 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 Rye Primary School are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Rye Primary School accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage of a child's mobile device.

Please note that Rye 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 Rye Primary School's Personal Property Policy.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Rye Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Rye Primary School students are required to store their phones by handing them into the school administration office to be placed in a lockable cabinet.

Enforcement

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

At Rye 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:

- that 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 test situations 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 in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones - Student Use Policy](#)

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

Rye 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)
- Travelling to and from school (except on the school bus)

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Statement of Values & School Philosophy
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement,
- Code of Conduct
- Bullying Prevention
- Digital Technologies (Internet, Social Media and Digital Devices),
- Personal Property

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.

This policy was last updated in October 2020.

School Council was consulted about this policy in October 2020.

It is scheduled for review October 2024.