Wales Street Primary School

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.

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Wales Street 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 Wales Street Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal wearable 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

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

At Wales Street Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored in the school office 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 Wales Street 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 Wales Street 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 Wales Street 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 the Wales Street Primary School's Personal Property Policy

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Wales Street Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Wales Street Primary School students are required to hand their mobile phone or wearable device into the school administration office to be placed in a lockable cupboard.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Wales Street Primary School will be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing Student Wellbeing and Engagement policy, Code of Conduct or Bullying Policies.

At Wales Street Primary School inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours or before or after school while on school grounds**, 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

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. 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

Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Travelling to and from school
- iPads and all other personal devices

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	August 2024
Consultation	Policy & Strategic Committee
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	August 2027

Please tick:

- I understand that the mobile phone will be left and placed in a lockable cabinet at the office during school hours and that the school does not cover insurance for personal property in accordance with the WSPS Personal Property Policy

- I have read and understand the WSPS Personal Mobile Phone Policy.

- I understand that my child's mobile will need to be registered at the office each day before school begins and collected at the end of the school day.

- I understand that I will need to collect the mobile phone if it has been misused at school.

I have read and understand the Acceptable use Agreement for Personal mobile devices and give permission for my child to take their mobile phone /device to school.

Student name:_____Signature:_____

Parent name:_____Signature:_____

This agreement has been devised to protect and ensure that students use personal mobiles for the purpose they were intended and strongly encourage parents to monitor the use of the device regularly.

Without this consent, students will not be allowed to bring a mobile device to school.