



MOBILE DEVICES – STUDENT USE

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Ferntree Gully North Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices.

DEFINITIONS

A mobile phone or a mobile device is a device with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

POLICY

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

At Ferntree Gully North Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile devices 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. If students are experiencing difficulty they must see a teacher.

Personal mobile device use

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Device Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile devices must not be used at Ferntree Gully 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 device for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.

Secure storage

Mobile devices owned by students at Ferntree Gully 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 device to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that Ferntree Gully 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 the Department's [Personal Goods policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile device to school, Ferntree Gully North Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those



without permission to do so. At Ferntree Gully North Primary School students are required to store their devices with the teacher.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile devices inappropriately at Ferntree Gully North 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* or *Bullying* policies).

At Ferntree Gully North Primary School inappropriate use of mobile devices is **any use during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted, and particularly use of a mobile device:

- 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 and swimming pools
- 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 Guidelines.

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's [Mobile Devices 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 Learning Plan, 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
Travelling to and from excursions
Students on excursions and camps

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

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Ferntree Gully 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 devices.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Travelling to and from school

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/going-to-school/Pages/Mobile-phones-in-schools.aspx>
- [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Statement of Values](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was ratified by School Council in November 2019 and is scheduled for review in November 2022.