

Doncaster Gardens Primary School MOBILE PHONES POLICY – STUDENT USE
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PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Doncaster Gardens Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices such as smartwatches during school hours (this does not include BYOD – iPad/tablet).

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Doncaster Gardens Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices such as 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

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

At Doncaster Gardens Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones and or smartwatches 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 Doncaster Gardens 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 Doncaster Gardens 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 or other personal mobile devices to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that Doncaster Gardens 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 [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#). Where students bring a

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mobile phone to school, Doncaster Gardens Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Doncaster Gardens Primary School students are required to hand their mobile phones and other mobile devices to class teachers who will store their phones in a lockable cupboard.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Doncaster Gardens Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies: Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Code of Conduct and/or Bullying Policy. If a student is using a mobile phone or personal mobile device inappropriately, staff will implement the relevant disciplinary provision within the policies and procedures as mentioned.

At Doncaster Gardens 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
- to contact anyone via text or calling, including parents/guardians

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)	Specified unit of work or learning sequence Approval only granted by the Principal
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	As outlined in the Individual Education Plan Approval only granted by the Principal

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

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

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	Approval only granted by the Principal
Students who are Young Carers	A localised student record Approval only granted by the Principal

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	N/A
Students on excursions and camps	Risk assessment planning documentation for interstate or overseas travel only. Not to be granted for local excursions or camps
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	N/A
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel	N/A

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

Doncaster Gardens 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) as it is a private organisation
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- iPads and tablets for use in the BYOD program

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
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy*
- *Code of Conduct*
- *Bullying Policy*
- *School Camps and Excursions Policy*
- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)

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- [Weapons — Banning, Searching and Seizing Harmful Items](#)
- [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	November 2023
Consultation	Education Team November 2023 School Council November 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	November 2026

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