

# PRIMARY STUDENT USE OF MOBILE PHONES AND PERSONAL DEVICES POLICY



**Stirling East  
Primary School**

51 Braeside Road  
Stirling SA 5152  
08 8339 1420  
dl.0413.info@schools.sa.edu.au

## PURPOSE

This policy provides direction to students, staff and families about managing mobile phones and other digital devices that students choose to bring to school. Digital devices include, but are not limited to, smartwatches, tablets or laptops that are not part of a separate Bring Your Own Device arrangement. This policy applies while students are at school, or attending an authorised school activity such as an excursion, during school hours.

## MOBILE PHONE USE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

The department's position is that primary aged students cannot use their mobile phones and personal devices at school during school hours. The department and the school recognise that there are legitimate reasons for students to bring a mobile phone or personal device to school. This may include:

- to ensure their safety while travelling
- so that parents can contact them outside of school hours.

During the school day students are not permitted to access or use their mobile phones or other personal devices. Students must switch off or mute their devices before storing them at the beginning of the school day. They will not be able to access their device until the end of the school day.

## STORAGE OF PERSONAL DEVICES

Students are expected to store their personal devices in their bags. Students/Families may request for the device to be securely stored. The school may require an alternative secure storage solution for an undisclosed period of time for individual or groups of students. Circumstances where this may be required may (but not exclusively) include:

- Where there is concern for the security/safety for the device(s)
- Where a concern of inappropriate use is raised.

## IF THE STUDENT DOES NOT COMPLY

Should a student fail to comply with the policy requirements, disciplinary action may occur. Should the circumstances of non-compliance impact negatively upon others, a Restorative approach will be used to support the student to understand how their impact has impacted others and to work with them to repair the harm caused. A student's device would be confiscated in the short term whilst the issue is managed and parents will be contacted. Failure to comply with the policy will be managed in line with the school's Behaviour Management Policy and recognising that each situation is unique, consequences will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

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## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### Principal School Staff

Make sure:

- this policy is clearly communicated and accessible to all students, staff, and families
- there is a process for regular review of the policy
- secure storage is provided for student personal devices that are handed to staff
- processes are in place for monitoring internet and school network use by all members of the school community.

Enforce the policy and responses to instances of non-compliance.

Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.

Consider requests for exemptions from the policy from parents on a case-by-case basis. Make sure that approved exemptions are documented and that relevant staff are informed about students' exemptions.

Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.

### School Staff

Deliver learning opportunities and maintain a safe and productive learning environment. Take steps to minimise distractions from the non-educational use of personal devices in the learning environment at times when a device is being used by a student in line with an approved exemption or in circumstances where students' devices are stored in the classroom.

Respond to instances of non-compliance in line with the school's policy.

Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.

Make sure that any student personal devices handed in for their care are stored in a secure location and are returned to the student (or their parent).

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Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.

## **Students**

Comply with the requirements of the school's policy and follow all reasonable directions from the Principal and school staff.

If permitted to use a mobile phone or personal device I line with an exemption under this policy, do so in a safe, responsible and respectful way and support peers to do the same.

Communicate respectfully with others and do not use a mobile phone or other personal device to bully, harass or threaten another person.

Respect others' rights to privacy and do not take photos, film or audio record other people without their knowledge or permission.

## **Parents**

Support the implementation of the school's policy, including the consequences for non-compliance with the policy.

Use the school's formal communication channels in all instances to communicate with the school (including where a student requires early collection from school). Encourage their child to always report to a school staff member in the first instance if they become unwell or experience an issue at school.

Recognise the important role they play in supporting their child to use their mobile phone (or other personal device) in a safe, responsible and respectful way.

## **COMMUNICATION AND REVIEW**

This policy is to be presented to Governing Council for approval. Staff will also be given the opportunity to provide input.

The policy will be reviewed every two years but may be reviewed earlier should it be required.

The policy will be made available to the school community both digitally or on paper, by request, at the Front Office.

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**Endorsed by :** ..... .... / .... / .....

**Chair Governing Council**

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**Principal**

