



Morwell Central Primary School

Mobile Phones (Student) Policy 2024



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school office on 51365568.

Rationale:

To explain to our school community the Department's and Morwell Central Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and smart devices during school hours.

Aims:

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

At Morwell Central Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones/smart watches to school must have them switched off and securely stored at the front 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.

Implementation:

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 Morwell Central Primary School during school hours, including lunchtime and recess, unless an exception has been granted.

Wearable devices such as smart watches, iPads and other personal devices must have all notifications switched off during the school day.

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 Morwell Central 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 Morwell Central 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 School's Personal Property Policy AND/OR the Department's [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#).

At Morwell Central Primary School students are required to hand their phones into the school office, where they will be placed in a locked drawer.

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Morwell Central Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies [e.g. Student Wellbeing, Student Code of Conduct, and Bullying policies.]

At Morwell Central 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.

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](#).

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Morwell Central 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:

- Travelling to and from school.

Guidelines:

DEFINITIONS

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

Evaluation:

This Policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three/four-year review cycle or earlier as required.

APPROVAL

Created date	August 2024
Consultation	School Council – 9/9/2024 All Staff – 18/9/2024 Wellbeing Team – 18/9/2024
Endorsed by	Principal
Endorsed on	10/10/2024
Next review date	2027