

Mobile Phone Policy: Student Use - December 2023



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school.

Purpose

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

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All students at Lalor East Primary School and,
- Students' personal mobile phones 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.

Policy

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

At Lalor East Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones 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 Lalor East 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 Lalor East Primary School are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student or parent/carers) risk. Students are encouraged not to bring a mobile phone to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that Lalor East 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 mobile phone to school, Lalor East Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Lalor East Primary School, students are required to hand their phones into the school administration office to be placed in a lockable cupboard.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile device inappropriately at school may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's *Student Engagement and Well-Being Policy*, *Internet Policy* and/or *Bullying Prevention Policy*. In some circumstances, students' mobile phones may be confiscated and stored securely at the office. In these circumstances, the mobile phone will usually be returned to the student or their parent/carer at the end of the school day.

Students **are not** permitted to access their personal mobile phones during lunchtime or recess, unless they have sought and been granted permission by a supervising teacher or have been granted an exemption to this policy by the Principal.

At Lalor East 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](#).

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)	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	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students on excursions and camps	Risk assessment planning documentation
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel	Risk assessment planning documentation

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

Lalor East 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)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- Wearable devices
- iPads and all other personal devices

Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in induction processes for relevant staff
- Included in our staff handbook/manual
- Discussed in an annual staff briefing/meeting
- Reminders through the school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request



Related policies and resources

Other school policies which are connected with this policy are:

- Digital Technologies (Internet, Social Media and Digital Devices)
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Student Wellbeing & Engagement Policy

Policy Status and Review

This policy is a Departmental requirement and demonstrates our compliance with the Ministerial policy formally issued by the Minister for Education under *section 5.2.1(2)(b) of the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic)*.

This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of the school policy review cycle, following changes to Departmental legislation and guidelines or at times that the Principal forms the opinion that the policy warrants a review.

Approval

Updated	December 2023
Consultation	School Staff, Student Leaders
Endorsed by	Linda Richards, Principal
Endorsed on	12 December 2023
Next review date	December 2026

