

# Mobile Phone Student Use Policy

## PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Skipton Primary School's 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 Skipton Primary School and,
2. 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. 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 smart watches.

## POLICY

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

At Skipton 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 Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Skipton 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 Skipton 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. Skipton Primary School does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft, and we would encourage students and their parents/carers to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items. Refer to the Department's [Personal Goods policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Skipton Primary School can provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Skipton Primary School students are encouraged to hand their phones into the school administration office to be placed in a lockable cupboard.

## Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Skipton Primary school may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies (e.g. *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and/or *Code of Conduct* policies).

At Skipton Primary School 'inappropriate use' of mobile phones is **any use during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted.

'Inappropriate use' may also be described as 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

## 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 Policy](#).

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's [Mobile Phones 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

## 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

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**

Skipton 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.

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [http://www.skiptonps.vic.edu.au/uploads/1/0/3/0/10300962/student\\_well\\_being\\_and\\_engagement\\_policy\\_2019.pdf](http://www.skiptonps.vic.edu.au/uploads/1/0/3/0/10300962/student_well_being_and_engagement_policy_2019.pdf)
- [http://www.skiptonps.vic.edu.au/uploads/1/0/3/0/10300962/student\\_code\\_of\\_conduct.pdf](http://www.skiptonps.vic.edu.au/uploads/1/0/3/0/10300962/student_code_of_conduct.pdf)
- Mobile Phones – Department Policy
- Personal Goods – Department policy

## REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated February 2020 and is scheduled for review on February 2023.