



MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Gladstone Park Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Gladstone Park Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices, such as smartwatches brought onto school premises during school hours, including before school, recess, lunchtime and after school

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

Gladstone Park Primary School understands that students may have a compelling reason for bringing a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Gladstone Park Primary School:

- Students who bring a mobile phone to school must provide a parent/carer permission form at the beginning of the school year, detailing the compelling reason(s) for doing so (*see appendix 1*).
- Student mobile phones must be switched off and securely stored in the 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.

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 whilst on the premises at Gladstone Park Primary School, 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 and other personal mobile devices owned by students at Gladstone Park 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 and have a signed parent/carer permission for (*see appendix 1*). Please note that Gladstone Park 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.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Gladstone Park Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Gladstone Park Primary School students are required to hand their mobile phone or wearable device to the administration office when they arrive at school and collect them prior to going home.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Gladstone Park Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing *Student Behaviour Management Policy* and/or *Anti-Bullying and Cyberbullying Policy*.

At Gladstone Park Primary School inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours** (including before school, recess, lunchtime and after school), 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 Policy](#).

The two 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

Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- GPPS Student Behaviour Management Policy
- GPPS Anti-Bullying and Cyberbullying Policy
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on November 2019 and is scheduled for review on November 2022.



MOBILE PHONE PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is school policy for students not to have a mobile phone at school unless they have a valid or compelling reason. Therefore, if you require your child to bring a mobile phone to school please complete and sign the form below stating the reason(s) why he/she needs their mobile at school.

For safety reasons it is extremely important that parents who wish to contact their child during the day do so through the office. We ask parents not to call or send messages to students on their mobile phones during the school day.

Yours sincerely

Tony Malgioglio
Principal

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MOBILE PHONE PARENTAL CONSENT

I give permission for my child _____ in class _____
to have a mobile phone at school.

Reason: _____

In giving this permission, I understand and accept that:

- *On arrival at school, mobiles must be switched off and handed in at the office for storage until the end of the school day.*
- *The school accepts no responsibility for loss/damage of valuable items, including mobile phones.*
- *Students found not following the policy will have their mobile phones held at the office until collected by a parent.*

Student's Mobile Phone Number: _____

Make / Model of Phone: _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____ **Date:** _____