

## Mobile Phones Policy

### Purpose

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

### Scope

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Rockbank 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.

### Policy

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

At Rockbank Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored at the school 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 at Rockbank 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 Rockbank 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 Rockbank 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 [Personal Goods policy.](#)

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

## Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Rockbank Primary school may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy.

At Rockbank 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
- 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 three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#) are:

### 1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
<b>For specific learning activities (class-based exception)</b>	Unit of work, learning sequence
<b>For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty</b>	Individual Learning Plan, Individual Education Plan

### 2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
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<b>Students with a health condition</b>	Student Health Support Plan
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### *3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite*

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

Rockbank 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

## **Related Policies and Resources**

- Acceptable Use Agreement
- Child Safety Code of Conduct
- Child Safety Policy
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)

<b>Created:</b> Sharon Kenshole, March 2020	<b>Ratified:</b>	<b>Review:</b> 2022
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