

MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE POLICY

Purpose

To explain to our school community the Department's and Hamilton North PS's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices including smart watches during school hours.

Scope

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Hamilton North PS and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones [and other personal mobile devices 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

Hamilton North PS understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Hamilton North PS:

- The school discourages students from bringing mobile phones to school. Parents wishing their child to bring a mobile phone to school need to seek permission from the principal.
- Any mobile phone brought to school must be handed in to the class teacher or administration office at the start of each day and collected at the end of the school day. Failure to do so may lead to the device being confiscated with a parent asked to collect it from the principal'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 Hamilton North PS 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 Hamilton North PS 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 that they have received permission from the Principal. Please note that Hamilton North PS does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft.

Where students have permission to bring a mobile phone to school, Hamilton North PS will provide storage options in the Administrative Office or the student’s classroom.

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](#) that are relevant to Hamilton North Primary School 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.

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Hamilton North PS 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

- *Student Engagement and Wellbeing*
- *Digital Technologies Policy*
- *Bullying etc.*
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)

Review Period

This policy was last updated on 23 May 2021 and is scheduled for review in May 2024.

Office Use Only			
Previous Review Date	May 2018		
Current Review Date	May 2021	Ratified by School Council	March 2021
Scheduled Review Date	March 2024		