

# MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Liddiard Road PS office staff or leadership team on 51741795

## PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Liddiard Road Primary School's (hereafter referred to as L.R.P.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 L.R.P.S. 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.

**A smart watch** is a wearable computing device that closely resembles a wristwatch or other time-keeping device that can be used to make and receive calls, access notifications and has emergency calls and location features.

## POLICY

L.R.P.S. understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Liddiard Road;

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored in the office during school hours.
- Students who choose to wear smart watches must have them set to school mode between the hours of 9 and 3. This essentially means that smart watch will operate as a watch only.
- 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 Liddiard Road 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 L.R.P.S. 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 L.R.P.S. 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 L.R.P.S. Personal Property Policy AND/OR the Department's [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, L.R.P.S. will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so.

At L.R.P.S. -

- All mobile phones that are brought into the school by students are to be surrendered to the office before commencement of classes.
- The phones will be returned to the students upon the completion of their school day.
- All smart watches will be switched to 'school mode' between the hours of 9am and 3pm.

## Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at L.R.P.S. may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies.

At L.R.P.S. 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**

**2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions**

**3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite**

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**

No phones are allowed on school camps or excursions unless an exemption has been granted by the Principal

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- iPads and all other personal devices
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience
- Students who are undertaking VET

**COMMUNICATION**

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

- Available publicly on our school's website (or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method)
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in school newsletter
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration and also stored in the policies folder in the staffroom.

**RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

- [. Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Code of Conduct, Personal Property, Bullying etc.\]](#)
- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)

**POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Policy last reviewed	August, 2023
Consultation	Review in consultation with Principal and School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	August, 2027