

Dunkeld Consolidated School No 6215

Mobile Phones – Student Use Policy

We are a Child Safe School and we will protect all children at all times.

PROGRAM LEADER: Principal

COUNCIL RATIFICATION: 19 December 2019

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department of Education and Training's and Dunkeld Consolidated School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices during school hours. Other personal mobile devices includes, but is not limited to, smart watches and tablets.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Dunkeld Consolidated School'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 refers to mobile phones and any device that may connect to or, have a similar functionality to a mobile phone, such as a smart watch or tablet. This includes devices with the ability to access a cellular system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

POLICY

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

At Dunkeld Consolidated 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 Dunkeld Consolidated 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 Dunkeld Consolidated 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 Dunkeld Consolidated 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 School's Personal Property Policy and/or the Department's [Personal Goods policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Dunkeld Consolidated School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At

Dunkeld Consolidated School students are required to store their phones at the school office, where secure storage will be provided.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Dunkeld Consolidated School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies including, but not limited to the. *Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Code of Conduct* or *Bullying* policies.

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

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](#).
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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

Dunkeld Consolidated 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

- Travelling to and from school
- iPads being used in the classroom

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Code of Conduct, Personal Property Policy, Bullying Prevention Policy and Digital Technologies Policy.*
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

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