



Mobile Phones – Student Use Policy

May 2021

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Seabrook Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones, smartwatches, photographic devices and other personal mobile devices that are not part of the school's ICT program 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, and any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as a smartwatch or digital camera.

POLICY

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

At Seabrook Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones or other electronic devices 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 – Student Use Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Seabrook 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 Seabrook 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 Seabrook 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 Seabrook Primary School's Personal Property Policy.

Where students bring a mobile phone or other personal electronic device to school, Seabrook Primary School will provide secure storage. **Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Seabrook Primary School students are required to store their phones and electronic devices securely by providing the device to the class teacher to be locked away in a cupboard, drawer or filing cabinet.**

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones and related electronic devices inappropriately at Seabrook Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policy, such as: Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Acceptable Use Policy, Cyber Safety Policy, and Bullying Prevention Policy.

At Seabrook Primary School, inappropriate use of device covered by this policy is **any use during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted:

- 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 tests and assessments

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy:

- may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically,
 - Health and wellbeing-related exceptions.
 - 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](#).

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 Education Plan (IEP)

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Seabrook 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 and other personal electronic devices.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Travelling to and from school
- School-managed devices that form part of the school's ICT and 1-to-1 program, such as school iPads and MacBooks.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Seabrook Primary School's Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Seabrook Primary School's Acceptable Use Policy
- Seabrook Primary School's Cyber Safety Policy
- Seabrook Primary School's Bullying Prevention Policy.
- DET [Mobile Phones – Student Use Policy](#)
- DET [Weapons and Other Harmful Items – Banning, Searching and Seizing](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated May 2021 and is scheduled for review May 2025.