

Mount Evelyn Primary School

School Policies Manual



Mobile Phone Policy

Rationale:

The Victorian Government and Mount Evelyn Primary School takes the safe and responsible use of digital technologies, student safety and wellbeing, and the development of social skills and positive behaviour, very seriously.

Whilst we live in a technology-rich world where mobile phones and other personal mobile devices are an important communication tool, research has found that these can be disruptive in classrooms and open to misuse at school. The unregulated presence of such devices in classrooms can undermine students' capacity to think, learn, remember, pay attention and regulate emotion.

Aim:

This policy outlines the requirements of Mount Evelyn Primary School and the Mount Evelyn Primary School Out of House School Care relating to students using mobile phones during school hours and applies to all personal mobile devices brought onto school premises during school hours.

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" also refers to any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watches.

Implementation:

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

At our 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 DET [Mobile Phones Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Mount Evelyn Primary School during school hours, Before or After School Care, Vacation Care or during lunchtimes and recesses, 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 devices owned by students at are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner'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 Mount Evelyn 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.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Mount Evelyn Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Mount Evelyn Primary School students are expected to take their mobile phone to the school office prior to the start of the school day. It will be locked in secure storage facility and can be collected at the end of the school day. Students attending OSHC or vacation care must hand their mobile phone to the responsible person who will ensure that the device is securely stored.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Mount Evelyn Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's Student Engagement and Wellbeing and Student Management Policies.

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy:

Health and wellbeing-related exceptions and exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite. can be granted by the principal in accordance with the DET [Mobile Phones Policy](#).

The categories of exceptions allowed under the DET [Mobile Phones Policy](#) are:

1. Learning-related exceptions

- For specific learning activities determined by the school
- For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

- Students with a health condition

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

Mount Evelyn 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 devices.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy
- Student management Policy
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

Communication:

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

- It will be made available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes and start of year staff updates
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

Our school will also ensure it follows the mandatory parent/carer notification requirements with respect to suspensions and expulsions outlined in the Department's policies at:

Evaluation:

Policy last reviewed	November 13 th , 2019
Consultation	With school council on November 13 th , 2019
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.