MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need assistance to understand information in this policy, please utilise translation tools for initial interpretation. If an interpreter is required, please contact the school's administration office.

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Birralee PS's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices (including smartwatches and toys) during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Birralee PS and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

DEFINITIONS

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. A mobile phone is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

POLICY

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

At Birralee PS:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored by the class teacher during school hours.
- Mobile phones are not to be taken on excursions or camps.
- 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 Birralee PS or during school activities, including lunchtime, recess, sport and swimming events, excursions or camps unless an exception has been granted by the school principal or their representative.

Where a student has been granted an exception, the student must only 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 Birralee 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. Please note that Birralee PS 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 Department's Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Birralee PS will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Birralee PS students are required to hand their phones to the class teacher to be placed in a lockable cupboard or drawer.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Birralee PS may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement polices (*Student Wellbeing and Engagement*, *Code of Conduct* or *Bullying* policies).

At Birralee PS 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
- when managing risks such as for the management of illnesses such as diabetes (when connected to a Continuous Blood Glucose Monitor - BGM). Permission 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

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 (such as a hearing or speech disorder that necessitates the use of a communication device).	Individual Learning Plan, Individual Education Plan.

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition, such as Type 1 diabetes when a Continuous Blood Glucose Monitor (BGM) is used	Student Health Support Plan
Students who are Young Carers	A localised student record

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students on excursions and camps with a significant risk (e.g. due to personal security in relation to court orders).	Risk assessment planning documentation
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel	Risk assessment planning documentation

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

Birralee 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.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in school newsletter and/or via Compass
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions e.g. camp meetings
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Anti Bullying Policy
- Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Consultation	• Student representative groups • Education Subcommittee • School Council	16/05/2026
Approved by	Principal: Ashley Ryan	16/05/2026
Next scheduled review date	16/05/2030	