



# Birregurra Primary School

## Mobile Phones Policy – Student Use

### Purpose

To explain to our school community the Department's and Birregurra Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and smart watches during school hours.

### Scope

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Birregurra Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and smart watches 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 watch with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

### Policy

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

At Birregurra Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours
- Students who choose to bring smart watches to school can wear them but must have them switched on to 'school mode' or similar 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 on 5236 2222.

### 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 Birregurra 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 Birregurra 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 Birregurra 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 Department's [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy.](#)

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Birregurra Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Birregurra Primary School, students are required to hand their phones into the school office to be placed in a lockable safe.

## Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones or smart watches inappropriately at Birregurra Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies including our *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and *Bullying Prevention* policies.

At Birregurra Primary School inappropriate use of mobile phones or smart watches 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

Specific exception	Documentation
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	Individual Learning Plan, Individual Education Plan

### 2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	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
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	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

Birregurra 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 smart watches.

#### Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-school-hours events
- Out-of-School-Hours-Care (OSHC)
- Travelling to and from school
- iPads and all other personal devices

#### 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
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

#### Related Policies and Resources

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement
- Code of Conduct
- Personal Property
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)
- [Weapons — Banning, Searching and Seizing Harmful Items](#)
- [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)

## Review Cycle

Policy last reviewed	13 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
Consultation	School Council – 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	November 2026