



# Mobile Phones - Student use

## POLICY

### Purpose

To explain to our school community the Department of Education's (DET) and Ocean Grove Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones during school hours.

### Scope

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Ocean Grove Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones 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.

### Policy

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

At Ocean Grove Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must hand the mobile into the school administration before the commencement of the school day to be placed in storage.
- 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's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Ocean Grove 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 Ocean Grove Primary School are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer) risk. Students are encouraged not to bring a mobile phone to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that Ocean Grove 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 Ocean Grove Primary School's [Personal Property Policy](#) AND/OR the DET's [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#).

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

### **Enforcement**

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Ocean Grove Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policy. [Student Wellbeing and Engagement](#).

At Ocean Grove Primary School, inappropriate use of a mobile phone 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 DET's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#).

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**

Ocean Grove 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.

### **Exclusions**

This policy does not apply to

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

## Related policies and resources

- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)
- [Weapons — Banning, Searching and Seizing Harmful Items](#)
- [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	November 2021
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	November 2024 - recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 3 to 4 years

Extracted from <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/students-using-mobile-phones/policy>