



## **SORRENTO PRIMARY SCHOOL MOBILE PHONE POLICY**

**Ratified: February 2020**

**Next Review Date: February 2023**

### **PURPOSE**

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

### **SCOPE**

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Sorrento Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices brought onto school premises, 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. 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.

### **POLICY**

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

At Sorrento Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours and when on school grounds.
- 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 Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Sorrento Primary School during school hours or when on the school grounds, 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 Sorrento 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 Sorrento 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 [Personal Goods Policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Sorrento Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Sorrento Primary School students are required to hand their phones in at the office, prior to the commencement of the school day, where they will be placed in the safe. They are to be collected at the end of the day, once the school bell has rung.

### Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Sorrento Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies, Student Inclusion, Engagement and Wellbeing Policy, eSmart Policy and Anti Bullying Policy.

At Sorrento Primary School inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours or on school premises**, 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, staff and members of the school community without their permission

### Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy:

- may be applied during school hours or when on school premises 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 Policy](#).

The categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's [Mobile Phones 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	Individual Learning Plan, Individual Education Plan

#### 2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

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

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**

Sorrento 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 events
- Travelling to and from school

### **RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- eSmart Policy
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)