



BLACKBURN LAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Florence Street Blackburn 3130

MOBILE PHONES –STUDENT USE POLICY

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community, the Department's and Blackburn Lake 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 BLPS and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices 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. For the purpose of this policy, "mobile phone" includes any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watches.

POLICY

BLPS understands that it may be necessary for certain students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At BLPS:

- Students who bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours, including recess and lunchtime
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see below for further information)
- When emergencies occur, parents or carers can reach their child by calling the school's office. If the child is off the school grounds (as such when on excursion or school camp), the school can contact the school and messages can be given to the teacher in charge of your child in an emergency.

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 on site at BLPS before, during or after school hours, including lunchtime and recess, unless an exception has been granted. (This includes pick up and drop off zones)

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 BLPS 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 BLPS does not have insurance for accidental property damage or theft. Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items.

BLPS does not have the capacity to provide secure storage for student property, including mobile phones.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at BLPS may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies such as:

- *Student Wellbeing and Engagement*
- Bullying Prevention and Management Policy

At BLPS, 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

Use of mobile phones in these ways is not recommended at any time, as these types of use can have serious consequences.

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy can be granted by the principal, or by the teacher for that class or individual student, in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#).

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

RATIFIED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL: February, 2020

PRINCIPAL: Loisia Steed SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Dan Watts

For review in February 2022