



Billanook Primary School

MOBILE PHONE – STUDENT USE POLICY



PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Billanook 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 Billanook Primary School 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" 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

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

At Billanook Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours at the school office
- 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 Billanook 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 Billanook 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 Billanook 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 Billanook Primary School's Personal Property Policy AND/OR the Department's [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Billanook Primary school will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Billanook Primary school students are required to store their phones in the school administration office to be placed a storage tub.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Billanook Primary school may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and/or Bullying policies.

At Billanook Primary School 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 learning 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 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 |
| Student with diabetes to monitor blood sugar levels | Letter from parent |

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

| Specific exception | Documentation |
|---|--|
| Travelling to and from excursions where students are not beginning their journey on school grounds. e.g. families are dropping students at the train station. | Risk assessment planning documentation |
| Students on excursions and camps where students are not beginning their journey on school grounds e.g. families are dropping students at the train station. | 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

Billanook 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 any electronic device. See [Camps and Excursions policy](#).

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 school newsletter as needed
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions as need arises
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- *Student Wellbeing and Engagement*
- *Personal Property*
- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Policy last reviewed | June 2022 |
| Consultation | School Council – August 17 th 2022 |
| Approved by | Principal |
| Next scheduled review date | June 2026 |