



MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the Grahamvale Primary School on 03 58 214219.

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Grahamvale Primary School and
2. Students' personal mobile phones, including smartwatches 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

Grahamvale Primary School understands that students may need to bring a personal mobile phone to school for medical purposes or if they are travelling independently to and from school (for example in a taxi). Approval to bring a personal mobile phone must be granted by the principal.

At Grahamvale Primary School:

- Unless prior approval is arranged by the principal, mobile phones brought to school by a student will be securely stored during school hours at the front office, then returned to the students on their departure.
- 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 Grahamvale 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 Grahamvale Primary School are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Please note that Grahamvale 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.

Where students need to bring a mobile phone to school, Grahamvale Primary School will provide secure storage. Students are required to hand their mobile phone into the school administration office to be placed in a secure storage area. This storage cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so.

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy:

- may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically,
 - Health related exceptions; and
 - Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite.
- can be granted by the Principal, 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)	Student Mobile Phones not permitted.

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan for Diabetes requiring third party monitoring.

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	Excursion/Camp Risk Assessment Student Mobiles Phones not permitted. When offsite, where necessary students can be contacted through the supervising teacher or school.

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

Grahamvale 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.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	July 2026
Consultation	School Improvement Team School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	July 2029