Dorset Primary School
School No.5132

MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE POLICY



If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact our office.

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Dorset'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 Dorset 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

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

At Dorset:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours
- 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 Dorset 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 Dorset 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 Dorset 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 Dorset'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, Dorset will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Dorset students are required to store their phone in a secure space in the classroom.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Dorset may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policy.

At Dorset inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted.

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.

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

Dorset 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

- Travelling to and from school
- Using devices under an approved exception

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website and Compass
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

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	August 2026
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	2026-2030