



Mobile Phone Policy

Effective date: 1st April 2023

Author: Julian Thrupp

Review Date: 1st April 2025

Updates:

Endorsed by School Board:

Connected Department Policies/Guidelines

Student Mobiles Phones in Public Schools, Code of Conduct, Telecommunications Policy, Behaviour Management in Schools Policy.

Policy Statement

The Department of Education does not permit student use of mobile phones in public schools unless for medical or teacher directed educational purpose.

Rationale

An increasing number of parents/guardians wish to provide their children with mobile phones or wearable devices with messaging, Internet, and Bluetooth capabilities for safety, security, and/or emergency. This policy details the conditions under which these devices are permitted at Harrisdale Primary School. Wearable devices with messaging, Internet, or Bluetooth capabilities may include digital watches and wearable fitness trackers. The school reserves the right to amend this policy in the future. This policy supports the DOE 'off and away all day' promotion.

Principles

Students will only be permitted to bring a mobile phone or wearable device with messaging, Internet, or Bluetooth capabilities onto school premises for safety, security, or emergency purposes (i.e., contact parents after school to arrange pick-up times). Mobile phones must be turned off during school hours and are to be handed to the class teacher before school begins and collected at the end of the day. Each phone will be kept in a secure location until the end of the day.

Wearable devices with messaging, Internet, or Bluetooth capabilities will be set to 'airplane' mode or the connectivity to the internet or other devices such as their iPad or mobile phone turned off. This includes any notifications, location sharing or recording capabilities.

Mobile phones and wearable devices with messaging, Internet, or Bluetooth capabilities may only be turned on and/or used once the student has left the school premises and not connected to the school WI FI network.

While at school, students are the responsibility of school staff and Department of Education. Any instances that require emergency contact with parents **MUST** be through the appropriate staff member or a member of administration who will make the appropriate call to parents/carers.

Devices are not to be used by other students under any circumstances. The school does not accept responsibility for any theft, loss or damage of mobile phones or wearable devices.

The mobile phone or wearable device is not used for inappropriate purposes (i.e., students are not to take photos or videos on mobile phones on school premises or message friends or family members.)

Inappropriate Conduct

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile device to menace, harass or offend another person. Hence, students with devices must not engage in personal attacks, harass another person, or post private information about another person using messages, taking/sending photos, videos or objectionable images, and phone calls. Students using devices to bully other students will face disciplinary actions as sanctioned by the Principal.

Consequences

Students infringing on the principles noted above may have their mobile phone or wearable device confiscated and secured. It will be taken to the front office and kept secure, and the parent(s) of the student informed.

Any incidents of inappropriate behaviours through the use of mobile phones or wearable devices will result in disciplinary action as applied by the Principal. The Principal may then withdraw permission for the student to bring a mobile phone or wearable device to Harrisdale Primary School for a set period or permanently.