

Mobile Phone Policy

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Echuca Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

DEFINITIONS

A **mobile phone** is a telephone, watch or similar device that allows 2-way communication.

POLICY

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

At Echuca Primary School:

- 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 Policy issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Echuca 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 Echuca 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 Echuca 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. Please refer to the Department's Personal Goods policy.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Echuca Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Echuca Primary School students are required to hand their phones into the school administration office to be placed in a lockable drawer. They are also required to sign their phones in and out via the ipad located in the foyer.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Echuca Primary School will be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing Wellbeing and Engagement policy

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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 in accordance with the Department's Mobile Phones Policy.

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Echuca 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.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school

REVIEW PERIOD

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| Policy last reviewed | August 2023 |
| Approved by | Principal |
| Next scheduled review date | August 2027 |