

MOBILE PHONE & SMART WATCH POLICY – STUDENT USE



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the School Office.

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Fairhills Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students' use of mobile phone and/or smart watches during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

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

DEFINITIONS

A mobile phone and/or smart watch is a device with access to a telecommunication system, the internet and camera with or without a physical connection to a network.

POLICY

Fairhills Primary School understands that students may bring a mobile phone and/or smart watch to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Fairhills Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring a mobile phone and/or smart watch to school must, upon entering the school grounds, place the mobile phone and/or smart watch in their school bag
- When entering the classroom mobile phones and/or smart watches must be handed to the teacher for secure storage throughout the school day
- When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office.
- Mobile phones and/or smart watches brought to school must remain in the student's school bag until they have exited the school grounds.
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see below for further information)

Personal mobile phone use

In accordance with the Department's <https://www.vic.gov.au/mobile-phones-schools> issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones and/or smart watches must not be used at Fairhills 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 and/or smart watches owned by students at Fairhills 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 mobile phones and/or smart watches to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that Fairhills 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 Fairhills 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 and/or smart watch to school, Fairhills Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Fairhills Primary School students are required to store their phones in the classroom filing cabinet which is locked during the school day.

Enforcement

Students who use their mobile phones and/or smart watches inappropriately at Fairhills Primary School may be issued with consequences, such as having it confiscated. These will be consistent with our school's existing student engagement (*Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Code of Conduct and Bullying*) Policies.

At Fairhills Primary School inappropriate use of mobile phones and/or smart watches is **any use during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted.

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Fairhills 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 mobile phones and/or smart watches.

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 staff induction processes and staff training

- Included in school newsletter
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

[Student Engagement Wellbeing Behaviour Management 2021](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	2021
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	2027