

SPRING GULLY PRIMARY SCHOOL

MOBILE PHONES

POLICY

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Spring Gully Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones during school hours. In addition, this policy relates to other mobile communication devices also, such as smartwatches.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students at Spring Gully Primary School, relating specifically to personal mobile phones and other portable communication devices, such as smartwatches, being brought onto school premises during school hours.

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

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

At Spring Gully Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and kept in their bags during school hours
- When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office.
- Students who use their mobile phone on the school premises, during school hours, will have their device confiscated and stored in the office until the end of the school day.

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 Spring Gully Primary School during school hours, including lunchtime and recess. Exceptions to this requirement are detailed below.

Secure storage

Mobile phones owned by students 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 Spring Gully 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 bring a mobile phone to school, Spring Gully Primary School will provide secure storage upon request only. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. Where secure storage is not requested, students are expected to ensure mobile phones are turned off and remain in their school bag.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing Student Engagement and Wellbeing policy.

At Spring Gully Primary School inappropriate use of mobile phones is any use during school hours.

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically:

- Health and wellbeing-related exceptions, as deemed appropriate by the Principal

1. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan
Students who require their mobile phone for welfare or mental health purposes	Requested by the parent and agreed upon by the 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

Spring Gully Primary School does not allow personal mobile phones to be taken by students on excursions, camps or any other activity or event held off the school site. Devices without the capacity to access a cellular network, such as an iPad, are permitted for the purpose of taking of photos (by students). The school takes no responsibility for loss, theft or damage of such devices, as outlined above.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- *SGPS Student Wellbeing and Engagement*,
- *SGPS Electronic Devices*
- *SGPS Digital Technologies and Cyber Safety*
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on November 2019