



Mildura Specialist School

Mobile Phone – Student Use Policy

PURPOSE

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

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Mildura Specialist 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 with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network and any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watches.

POLICY

At Mildura Specialist 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 Mildura Specialist 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 Mildura Specialist 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 Mildura Specialist 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 Mildura Specialist School Personal Property Policy.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Mildura Specialist School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Mildura Specialist School students are required to store their phones in one of the three designated secure storage lockers.

Enforcement

Teaching Staff will contact School Leadership via Team Leaders when students use their mobile phone (without granted permission) or refuse to hand over their phone after being instructed by either Teaching or ES staff to hand it over to the provided storage system. The Leadership team will endeavour to work with students and their parents/caregivers if required to reach resolution, in accordance with the Department’s Mobile Phone Policy issued by the Minister For Education.

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 Policy](#).

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department’s [Mobile Phones Policy](#) are:

1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)	Unit of work, learning sequence
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	Individual Learning Plan, Individual Education Plan

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan
Students who are Young Carers	A localised student record

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students on excursions and camps	Risk assessment planning documentation
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel	Risk assessment planning documentation

Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Mildura Specialist School Personal Property Policy

- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)
- [Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on January 2020 and is scheduled for review on January 2022