



MOBILE PHONE POLICY

PURPOSE

The Minister for Education released a new Students Using Mobile Phones Policy for all Victorian government schools on 7 October 2019. The new ministerial policy has been formally issued by the Minister for Education under section 5.2.1(2)(b) of the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the new legislation is communicated and implemented at Broadmeadows Valley Primary School (BVPS). This policy requires that from Term 1 2020, students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored at the front office during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

SCOPE

This DET policy has been prepared for implementation in all standard Victorian government primary and secondary schools. The BVPS mobile phone policy applies to staff and students and the use of mobile phones during school times. All BVPS staff are to implement this policy.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy, a mobile phone is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunications) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

POLICY

Statement by the Minister “The Victorian Government takes the safe and responsible use of digital technologies, student safety and wellbeing, and the development of social skills and positive behaviour, very seriously. On this basis, the Hon. James Merlino MP, Minister for Education, announced that a new mobile phone policy would take effect from Term 1, 2020.

Whilst the Victorian Government acknowledges that we live in a technology-rich world where mobile phones are an important communication tool, research has found that mobile phones can be disruptive in classrooms and open to misuse at school. The unregulated presence of mobile phones in classrooms can undermine student’s capacity to think, learn, remember, pay attention and regulate emotion.

At recess and lunchtime, opportunity for students to communicate with each other face-to-face or be involved in physical activity are highly valued, rather than students being focused on a mobile phone, particularly when they are using it to engage with social media.

The new policy acknowledges that technology is increasingly affecting how students learn and communicate. Therefore, when a student has been given explicit permission to access and use such devices to enhance learning by the classroom teacher, mobile phones will be permitted for that specific purpose. For a small number of students with particular health and wellbeing needs, an exception to the policy may also be granted. This policy will remove a major distraction from classrooms and learning environments, so that teachers can teach, and students can learn in a more focused, positive and supported environment”.

Exceptions and Exclusions for Standard Government Schools

The Department has four categories of exceptions or exclusions for standard government schools for which documentation is required.

Learning-Related Exceptions

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

Health and Wellbeing Related Exceptions

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

Exceptions Related to Managing Risk When Students are Offsite

Specific exception	Suggested documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students on excursions	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 needs to undertake intercampus travel	Risk assessment planning documentation

Exclusions

In the following circumstances, the new mobile phone policy does not apply.

Description	Rationale
Out-of-School-Hours-Care (OHSC)	Policy does not apply, as attendance falls outside of school hours.
Out-of-School-Hours events	Policy does not apply, as attendance falls outside of school hours.
Travelling to and from school	Policy does not apply, as attendance falls outside of school hours.
Wearable to devices	All notifications must be switched off
IPads and all other personal devices	All notifications must be switched off

Enforcement

Broadmeadows Valley Primary School will enforce the policy under their existing student engagement policies, for example, through detention or a loss of school-based privileges where students fail to comply with the local school policy on mobile phones, including if they refuse to relinquish their phones to school staff when asked. Consistent with Ministerial Order 1125, suspensions are to be reserved for serious misuses of a mobile phone in schools (e.g., cyber bully).

Policy Communication

- This policy is available to our school community on our school website and in some of our manuals and bulletins.
- This policy will be communicated to students and parents/carers annually and reminders issued as needed.
- This policy will be shared with all school staff and included in any student/staff induction processes.

Compliance Summary

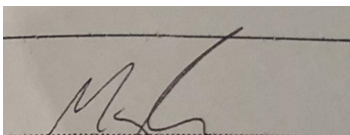

The arrangements are that all BVPS students will comply with the following:

- Students who bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off in the classroom and during school hours.
- In the case where the classroom teacher requires the students to use the phone for a specific topic, the relevant Team Leader must approve the request.
- If a student disregards this then the phone will be confiscated by the teacher or a member of the BVPS leadership team- see “enforcement” above.
- This policy will also apply to other technology such as iPads and personal mobile devices such as smart watches.
- All BVPS staff are required to implement the policy.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Education and Training Reform Act 2006, section 5.2.1(2)(b)
Ministerial Order 1125

POLICY EVALUATION AND RATIFICATION

Policy	BVPS Mobile Phone Policy
BVPS School Council President	Signed: 
BVPS Principal	Signed: 

Ratified on	16 / 11 /2021
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