



South Gippsland Specialist School

MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school on 56624496

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and South Gippsland Specialist School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at South Gippsland Specialist School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

DEFINITIONS

A 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

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

At South Gippsland 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 — Student Use Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at South Gippsland Specialist School during school hours, including lunchtime and recess, unless an exception has been granted.

Where a student has been granted an exception (independent travel to work experience) , 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 South Gippsland 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 South Gippsland 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.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, South Gippsland Specialist School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At South Gippsland Specialist School students are required to store their phones in the locked box when getting on our school buses, or when coming in to school.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at South Gippsland Specialist School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policy.

At South Gippsland Specialist School inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours which includes when travelling on the school buses**, unless an exception has been granted, and particularly use of a mobile phone:

- in any way that disrupts the learning of others
- to send inappropriate, harassing or threatening messages or phone calls
- to engage in inappropriate social media use including cyber bullying
- to capture video or images of people, including students, teachers and members of the school community without their permission
- to capture video or images in the school toilets, changing rooms, swimming pools and gyms

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 — Student Use Policy](#).

The categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use 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 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	Student record

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	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.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience
- Students who are undertaking VET

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 COMPASS
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	September 2024
Consultation	September 2024 via COMPASS
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	September 2027

This policy was last updated on September 2024 and is scheduled for review on September 2027.