



**PRAHRAN
HIGH
SCHOOL**

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

PURPOSE

The use of mobile phones by students is banned in all Victorian Government Secondary Schools.

This purpose explains to our school community the Department's and Prahran High School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Prahran High School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones brought onto school premises during school hours, including all break times during the day.

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

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

At Prahran High School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored in their lockers, locked by a combination locks, during school hours
- Student must not have their mobile phone out during the school day
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see below for further information)
- In the event of a family emergency, parents or carers contact their child by phoning Reception on 9113 1000.

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 Prahran High School during school hours, including Transition, Recharge and Lunch break times, 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, in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.

Secure storage

Mobile phones owned by students at Prahran High 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 Prahran High 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, Prahran High School provides secure storage by way of the students' lockers. Students are responsible for ensuring that their lockers are actually locked, all day. Some students will be required to hand their mobile phone to a teacher, generally if they are not adhering to these requirements. In both examples, the phone will be locked securely by the school.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Prahran High School will be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing Student Wellbeing and Engagement, and Bullying policies.

At Prahran High School students are not to use their mobile phone at all during school hours (including after-school Clubs) 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
- during exams and assessments

Should a student be found using their mobile phone inappropriately during the school day, staff will ask for the phone to be immediately given to them, to be collected at the end of the school day. This will either be from the teacher who confiscated the phone or a member of the school leadership team.

It is expected that students will follow this requirement immediately and without refusal. If a student refuses to follow a teacher's reasonable request/instruction, further consequences will follow.

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy:

- may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically
 - Health and wellbeing-related exceptions
 - Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite
- will only be granted by the Principal in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#).

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

| Learning Specific exception | Documentation |
|--|--------------------------------|
| For specific learning activities (class-based exception) | The relevant Cycle of Learning |
| For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty | Individual Education Plan |

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

| Travel Specific exception | Documentation |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Travelling to and from excursions | Risk assessment planning documentation |

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| 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 must only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted. NB: This policy does not apply to students as they travel to and from school. The mobile phone must not be used or be visible at school at any other time.

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Generally, this policy will fully apply to all Prahran High School camps but the school will provide students and their parents and carers with specific information about items that can or cannot be brought to camps, excursions, special activities and events, including personal mobile phones.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- PHS Student Wellbeing and Engagement and Bullying and Harassment policies
- [Mobile Phones – Department Policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated in September 2023 and is scheduled for review in February 2025.