



Murray Bridge Special School Policy

Use Of Mobile Phones And Personal Devices

Purpose

This policy provides direction to students, staff and families about managing mobile phones and other digital devices that students choose to bring to school. Digital devices include, but are not limited to, smartwatches, tablets or laptops that are not part of a separate Bring Your Own Device arrangement. This policy applies while students are at school, or attending an authorised school activity such as an excursion, during school hours.

Our learners do not have mobile phones or personal devices at school. Dependant on individual learning goals in One Plans, personal communication devices loaded with particular applications are used at school.

As part of behaviour strategies used by families' personal iPads may be used in private vehicles to get their child to school. These are handed over at the front desk and are not used during school hours.

Families take responsibility for any damage to personal devices used by their child as part of their learning program.

Mobile phone use for primary school students

The department's position is that primary aged students cannot use their mobile phones and personal devices at school during school hours. The department and the school recognise that there are legitimate reasons for students to bring a mobile phone or personal device to school. This may include:

- to ensure their safety while travelling
- So that parents can contact them outside of school hours.

During the school day students are not permitted to access or use their mobile phones or other personal devices. Students must switch off or mute their devices before storing them at the beginning of the school day. They will not be able to access their device until the end of the school day.

Storage of personal devices

Communication devices will be stored in the owner's classroom during the day and returned home in the school bag at night.

Families that do not use their child's communication device at home are able to negotiate with the school for the device to be stored and used at school for the term.

At the end of the term (school break) the device will be returned home for safe storage. It will then be returned to the school at the beginning of each term.

If the student does not comply

The school will work with the learner's family to best develop strategies to resolve the issue.

Roles and responsibilities

Principal

Make sure:

- this policy is clearly communicated and accessible to all students, staff, and families
- there is a process for regular review of the policy
- secure storage is provided for student personal devices that are handed in to school staff
- Processes are in place for monitoring internet and school network use by all members of the school community.

Enforce the policy and responses to instances of non-compliance.

Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.

Consider requests for exemptions from the policy from parents on a case-by-case basis. Make sure that approved exemptions are documented and that relevant staff are informed about students' exemptions.

Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.

School staff

Deliver learning opportunities and maintain a safe and productive learning environment. Take steps to minimise distractions from the non-educational use of personal devices in the learning environment at times when a device is being used by a student in line with an approved exemption or in circumstances where students' devices are stored in the classroom.

Respond to instances of non-compliance in line with the school's policy.

Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.

Make sure that any student personal devices handed in for their care are stored in a secure location and are returned to the student (or their parent).

Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.

Students

Comply with the requirements of the school's policy and follow all reasonable directions from the Principal and school staff.

If permitted to use a mobile phone or personal device in line with an exemption under this policy, do so in a safe, responsible and respectful way and support peers to do the same.

Communicate respectfully with others and do not use a mobile phone or other personal device to bully, harass or threaten another person.

Respect others' rights to privacy and do not take photos, film or audio records of other people without their knowledge or permission.

Parents

Support the implementation of the school's policy, including the consequences for non-compliance with the policy.

Use the school's formal communication channels in all instances to communicate with the school (including where a student requires early collection from school). Encourage their child to always report to a school staff member in the first instance if they become unwell or experience an issue at school.

Recognise the important role they play in supporting their child to use their mobile phone (or other personal device) in a safe, responsible and respectful way.

Communication and review

- If a learner is provided with a communication device by an outside source, it is the responsibility of the family or carers to ensure information about the device is provided to the school. If the device is sent in on a daily basis, the family or carers will ensure the device is sent to school clearly labelled with the owners name, in an appropriate protective case, and kept charged at all times.
- The family or carer must inform the school if the device is not being used at home so other strategies for achieving communication goals can be negotiated.
- The policy is located on the school website
- The policy will be reviewed annually or as needed.

Supporting information

- school behaviour code
- school anti-bullying policy
- ICT user agreements.



Government of South Australia
Department for Education