



# Box Hill North Primary School & Kindergarten

## Mobile Phone and Smartwatch Policy 2026 – Student Use

### PURPOSE

This policy is designed to inform and clarify for our school community the Department of Education's and Box Hill North Primary School's requirements and expectations regarding student use of mobile phones and smartwatches during school hours.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Box Hill North Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones, smart watches and other personal mobile devices brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

### DEFINITIONS

A **mobile phone** is a telephone that can access a cellular (telecommunications) network, with or without a physical connection. For the purposes of this policy, the term *mobile phone* includes mobile phones and any device with similar functionality.

A **smartwatch** is a wearable electronic device that can send and receive calls and/or text messages, and/or access the internet. Smartwatches with these capabilities are subject to the same restrictions as mobile phones and are not permitted for use during school hours.

### POLICY

Box Hill North Primary School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Box Hill North Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones and/or smartwatches to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours in designated secure storage containers. This includes devices that have 'parental controls' set 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 must use appropriate channels and 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 and/or smartwatches must not be used at Box Hill North Primary 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 Box Hill North Primary 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 Box Hill North Primary 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 [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#).

Where students choose to bring a mobile phone and/or smartwatch to school, Box Hill North Primary School will provide secure storage for these devices during school hours. *Secure storage* refers to storage that cannot be readily accessed by individuals without permission. In accordance with Department of Education policy, students at Box Hill North Primary School are required to hand in their mobile phones and smartwatches to their classroom teacher for secure storage for the duration of the school day.

## Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones and/or smartwatches inappropriately at Box Hill North Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies.

At Box Hill North Primary School inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours**, 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 assessments

## 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 three 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 Learning Plan, Individual Education Plan

### 2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan

### 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.

### Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Box Hill North Primary School will provide students and their parents and carers with information about items that can or cannot be brought to camps, excursions, special activities and events, including personal mobile phones.

### EXCLUSIONS

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Student's personal learning devices, such as laptops

### COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Included in staff induction processes
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Included in our staff compendium folder
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

### RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- *Department of Education Victoria Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy*
- *Student Wellbeing and Engagement*
- *Code of Conduct*
- *Personal Property*
- *Bullying etc*

### POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	Term 1 – March 2024
Consultation	School Council – Term 1 2024
Approved by	Anna Johnstone – Principal
Next scheduled review date	Term 1 - March 2027