STUDENT MOBILE DEVICE POLICY

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the main office of Nelson Park school (03) 52783620.

1. RATIONALE:

Mobile phones and personal mobile devices such as Smart Watches are a social tool and valued as part of our modern lifestyle. Nelson Park School understands that parents provide their children with mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. The school understands there are times when possession of a mobile phone can provide a sense of safety and security. The school has efficient processes to ensure communication between home and school when necessary.
The school also understands that there are times that mobile phones and personal mobile devices may be used as part of the school program and to provide safety and security for families when travelling to and from school.
This policy is in line with the recent Ministerial Order issued by the Minister for Education under section 5.2.1(2)(b) of the Education and Training Reform Act 2006.

2. SCOPE:

This policy applies to:

a. All students at Nelson Park School and,
b. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices brought onto school premises during school hours, including during engaged play and when travelling on the school bus system
c. This policy applies to both the Libau and Illinois Campus and any difference between campuses is specified.

3. 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 device" refers to mobile phones and any device that may connect to or have similar functionality to a mobile phone such as a smart watch.

4. POLICY:

At Nelson Park School:

a. Students are only permitted to bring mobile phones or personal mobile devices to school and on the school bus transport system in exceptional circumstances. These exceptions are outlined below.
    1. Learning related experiences:
        - For specific learning experiences (class-based exception)
        - For students who have inclusions within a documented Student Management Plan
    2. Health and Wellbeing related exceptions:
        - Students with a health condition where phone access is critical to the emergency management of that condition

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- Students who are deemed young carers

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are off-site:
   - Students who may be travelling independently to and from the school bus
   - Travelling to and from excursions independently
   - Students attending work experience programs
   - Students attending VET programming off school premises
   - When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission
   - Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel

b. Exceptional circumstances must be agreed between the school, the student and the parent/carer.
c. The document Mobile Device Exception Form must be signed by the school and the parent/carer or student if over 18 years prior to the student bringing the phone to school or on the school bus system.
d. If a device is bought to school under exceptional circumstances as listed, then the device must be switched off and handed to the school office (Libau campus and Illinois campus) as soon as the student arrives at the school. The device will be labelled, any damage on the device will be identified and it will be stored securely in the relevant school office. At the end of the day student devices will be collected by students and this will be noted by office administration.
e. Students who have been granted exceptional permission to have their devices on them when traveling on the school transport system must have the device turned off and out of sight.
f. Parental permission is required for students to have a device on the buses.
g. If a device is found on a student, it will be taken to the office for collection by a parent.
h. When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office.

Personal mobile phone use:

i. In accordance with the Department's Mobile Phones Policy issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile devices must not be used at Nelson Park School during school hours, including lunchtime and recess, unless an exception has been granted.
j. Where a student has been granted an exception, the student must use their mobile device for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.

Secure storage:

k. Mobile devices owned by students at Nelson Park School are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Please note that Nelson Park 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.
l. Where students bring a mobile device to school under exceptional circumstances, Nelson Park School will provide secure storage at the administration office on both campuses. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so.

Consequences:

m. Students who use their personal mobile devices inappropriately by bringing them to school without permission under the exceptional circumstances rule will be asked to hand their device into the office. Parents/carers will be notified to make arrangements for the device to be

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collected from the relevant office. The device will remain securely stored in the office until collection.

n. Those students who have permission under the exceptional circumstances rule and who use them inappropriately will be asked to hand their device into the relevant school office.

o. Parents/carers will be notified to make arrangements for the device to be collected from the relevant office. The device will remain securely stored in the office until collection.

Note: Further consequences will be consistent with Nelson Park School's Health and Wellbeing policies.

Exceptions:

Exceptions to the policy:

p. May be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically,
   1. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions; and
   2. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite.

q. Can be granted by the principal, or by the teacher for that class, in accordance with the Department's Mobile Phones Policy.

r. Will be granted when all parties have completed the Mobile Phone Exception Form

s. Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted.

t. Please see above list for exceptions to the policy.

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities:

u. Nelson Park School understands that at times students should be given the option to bring mobile devices on camp. Nelson Park School will provide students and their parents and carers with information about items that can or cannot be brought to camps and the rules for usage whilst on camp.

5. RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES:

This policy to be read in conjunction with the following Nelson Park School Policies and Department of Education Policies:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Digital Technologies Policy (Internet Social Media and Digital Devices)
- Cyber Bullying Policy
- Mobile Phones – Department Policy
- Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items
- Personal Goods – Department policy

5. EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

Policy last reviewed	25/03/2024
Approved by	Principal / School Council
Next scheduled review date	FEBRUARY 2027

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6. APPENDICES:

Appendices which are connected with this policy are:

- Exemptions to Mobile Device Policy

Exemptions to Mobile Device Policy

The only exemptions to the Student Mobile Device Policy are:

1. Learning related experiences:
   - For specific learning experiences (class-based exception)
   - For students who have inclusions within a documented Student Management Plan
2. Health and Wellbeing related exceptions:
   - Students with a health condition
   - Students who are deemed young carers
3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are off-site:
   - Students who may be travelling independently to and from the school bus
   - Travelling to and from excursions independently
   - Students attending work experience programs
   - Students attending VET programming off school premises
   - When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission
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Parent/Carer Consent Form

I have read the school's mobile device policy and understand the exemptions to the policy and have discussed these with a school leader.

I agree to the conditions and responsibilities regarding exemptions outlined in the policy.
I expect my child to follow the policy and not use the mobile device during school hours unless an exemption has been granted.

I agree that my child will comply with the school's Mobile Device Policy.

Students Name: _____ Year: _____

Students Signature (if over 18 years of age): _____

Principal/principal's Representative Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____