



Yea High School
MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE

TITLE	MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE
PERSON RESPONSIBLE:	Principal
LOCATION OF POLICY:	Website
DATE OF PREPARATION:	November 2019
ENDORSED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL:	School Council Consultation 2021
REVIEW DATE:	2021 – Annually

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department’s and Yea High 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 Yea High 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 is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

Note: 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 and iPads or similar.

POLICY

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

At Yea High 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.



Yea High School MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE

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 Yea High 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 Yea 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 Yea 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.

Refer to the Yea High School's Personal Property Policy AND/OR the Department's [Personal Goods policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Yea High School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Yea High School students are required to store their phones with the school administration at the beginning of the school day prior to first class. Phones will be placed in a lockable cupboard.

Enforcement

Yea High School's enforcement policy complies with the Department's [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#) policy relating to 'other items' which states that staff "should instruct the student to hand over the item(s) and if the student refuses to hand over the items, the school will then implement the relevant disciplinary provision within the student code of conduct."

If the item is something like a mobile phone, and it is confiscated, it will be returned to the student at the end of the day.

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Yea High School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing - **Student Engagement & Well-Being Policy 2019**.

At Yea High 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 exams and 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 Policy](#).

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

1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
No class use	
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 – provided to the Wellbeing Team for approval

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

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

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment in planning documentation
Students on excursions and camps	Risk assessment in planning documentation
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	Risk assessment in planning documentation
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake intercampus travel	Risk assessment in planning documentation

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



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Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Yea High 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 events
- Travelling to and from school
- iPads without phone connectivity
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience
- Students who are undertaking VET

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Personal Property Policy (school website)
- Student Engagement & Well-Being Policy 2019 (school website)
- [Mobile Phones](#) [Department Policy](#)
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#) [Department policy](#)
- [Personal Goods](#) [Department policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated in April 2021 and is scheduled for review in 2022.