

Valkstone Primary School, No. 4778



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STUDENTS USING MOBILE PHONES POLICY

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Valkstone Primary 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 Valkstone Primary School; and
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

POLICY

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

At Valkstone Primary 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.

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 Valkstone 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 Valkstone 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 Valkstone 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 Valkstone Primary School's Personal Property Policy.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Valkstone Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. Specifically, Valkstone Primary School students are required to store their phones in lockable cupboards located within classrooms or handed in to the school administration office.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Valkstone Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's Student Wellbeing and Engagement and/or Bullying policies.

At Valkstone 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 toilets, changing rooms, swimming pools or 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 Policy](#).

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

1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)	Not permitted at Valkstone Primary School
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	Specifically stated in the Individual Learning Plan or Individual Education Plan

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	Not permitted at Valkstone Primary School
Students on excursions and camps	Not permitted at Valkstone Primary School

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

Valkstone Primary School does not allow personal mobile phones to be taken on camps, excursions and extracurricular activities.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to:

- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement policy
- Bullying prevention policy
- Personal Property policy
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was ratified by School Council in November 2019.

This policy was last updated in November 2019 and is scheduled for review in November 2021.