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Lansdowne Crescent Primary School Policy - Use of Mobile Phones by Students in Schools Policy

Use of Mobile Phones by Students at School Policy

Department for Education,
Children and Young People

Tasmanian Government

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1 Purpose

To provide schools with support and additional information on the requirements for implementing the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) policy on the *Use of Mobile Phones by Students at School*.

This document is to be read and developed in association with DECYP's *Use of Mobile Phones by Students at School Policy.*

2 Policy Statement

DECYP does not permit the use of mobile phones by students in Tasmanian Government Schools unless for the approved exemptions outlined below.

It is important to note that it is not a requirement at **Lansdowne Crescent Primary** for students to have a mobile phone at school. Some schools may be implementing the Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Policy and processes and the use of a student's mobile phone for educational purposes would fall under the approved exemption of direct teacher instruction.

Lansdowne Crescent Primary recognises that an increasing number of parents/carers who for safety, security and/or emergency purposes wish to provide their child/children with mobile phones. This policy details the restriction and management of mobile phones at **Lansdowne Crescent Primary**. **CONDITIONS OF USE**

- Students must not use mobile phones from the start to the end of the school day from Kindergarten to Year 12.
- Students must have their phones switched off and appropriately stored from the start to the end of the school day.
- Students with 'smart watches' must have them set to 'aeroplane mode'.

Primary and/or Secondary Schools (K-10)
• Mobile phones must be switched off and stored in student bags from the start of the school day to the end of the school day.

2.1 Exemptions

Requests for exemptions must be submitted to the **Principal** for consideration.

Lansdowne Crescent Primary students may only use their mobile phone for an **approved** exemption as listed below:

- For students with a reasonable adjustment to a learning program because of a disability and/or learning difficulty.
- For students with health conditions where a mobile phone is used to monitor the condition.
- For students who are young carers.
- For students undertaking school activities outside of school hours that are not on school campuses.

- Where students have been given direct instruction by a teacher to use their mobile phone for educational purposes (including under the BYOT policy/procedures).
- For students experiencing extenuating circumstances other than the above, where agreed by the Principal or their delegate.

Where an exemption is granted, students under 16 years can only use their mobile phone to access an age-restricted social media platform when instructed by the teacher and where the content is publicly available and does not require logging into an account.

2.1.1 Communication with students during the school day

While at **Lansdowne Crescent Primary** during the school day, students are the responsibility of the school. All communication between parents/carers and students, during school hours, must occur through the school office.

- Lansdowne Crescent Primary has a duty of care for all students while they are at school during the school day. In emergencies, where students need to get in contact with parents/carers, students are to notify the appropriate school staff. If parents/carers need to contact their children, they are asked to contact the school office directly.

2.1.2 Non-compliance with this policy

Non-compliance with this policy will be managed in accordance with the school's Student Behaviour Management Policy.

Level 1:

- Students who do not comply with this policy may have their mobile phone confiscated and held at the school office. The parent/carer may be informed and requested to collect the mobile phone at their earliest convenience.

Level 2:

- In the case of repeated inappropriate mobile phone use by a student, the Principal or their delegate may request the student not bring the mobile phone to school.

Level 3:

- Further disciplinary action, in accordance with Lansdowne Crescent Primary Student Behaviour Management Policy may be a result of repeated non-compliance and/or depending on the circumstances of the non-compliance.

3 Related policies

- Bring Your Own Technology Policy
- Student Behaviour Management Policy

4 Related procedures

- Bring Your Own Technology Procedures
- Student Behaviour Management Procedures

5 Supporting information/tools

- Frequently Asked Questions for Families – Use of mobile phones by students at school

5.1 Storage options

Schools must determine an appropriate storage approach for student mobile phones in consultation with their School Association.

Schools may use a range of storage and student mobile phone identification approaches that are appropriate to the context of their school's mobile phone policy and management procedures.

Examples of student mobile phone storage and identification systems include, but are not limited to:

- Mobile phone is kept in student bags and switched off.
- Mobile phone is kept in locker (with door locked) and switched off.
- Mobile phone is kept in clear plastic snap lock bag with name clearly marked on bag and handed in as per school policy and switched off.
- Mobile phone is handed in to school office and kept in clear plastic snap lock bag with name clearly marked on bag and switched off.
- Mobile phone is stored in pocket pouch rack and switched off (racks available from educational resource suppliers).
- Mobile phone is kept on person (Years 11 and 12 students only).

6 Definitions

Age-restricted social media platform

Under Australian federal legislation, an age-restricted social media platform is defined as an electronic or online service that meets the following conditions:

- The sole purpose, or a significant purpose, of the service is to enable online social interaction between two or more end-users.
- The service allows end-users to link to, or interact with, some or all of the other end-users.
- The service allows end-users to post material on the service.

From 10 December 2025, platforms that meet these criteria are subject to the Social Media Minimum Age obligations, which require them to take reasonable steps to prevent Australians under 16 from creating or maintaining accounts. For a list of platforms that must comply with the minimum age obligations view Which platforms are age-restricted? | eSafety Commissioner.

Appropriate storage*

A storage location that is secure and cannot be readily accessed by those without permission.

**DECYP does not accept liability for loss or damage to private property or personal effects used or stored in buildings owned or used by the Department in the provision of education.*

Mobile phone

Is a mobile device with access to a cellular (telecommunications) system, with or without a physical connection to a network. This includes smart watches, tablets, and associated listening accessories, such as, but not limited to, headphones and earbuds.

Responsibilities: Must and May

- The word 'MUST' is to be interpreted as being mandatory.
- The words 'is to' and 'are to' are to be interpreted as directory (highly recommended).
- The word 'may' is to be interpreted as being discretionary or enabling as the context requires.

School Activity

Refers to school-endorsed activities for students that are held:

- at a venue which is outside of school campus or school property; or
- on school campus but outside of school hours.

School activities may include a sports or swimming carnival, an excursion, school camp, or end of year concert.

School Association

Is made up of the parents, staff and approved community members of a school. An Association exists for each Tasmanian State School, including primary schools, high schools, district schools and colleges.

School hours

Is the official start time of the school day for students, to the official end time of the school day for students.

7 Legislation

Tasmanian Legislation

- Secretary's Instruction No 3 for Unacceptable Behaviour of Students and Volunteers at, and Visitors to, State Schools or School Activities
- Secretary's Instruction No 4 for Suspension, Exclusion, Expulsion or Prohibition of State School Students

Commonwealth Legislation

- Online Safety (Age-Restricted Social Media Platforms) Rules 2025

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