



# Bethanga Primary School

## Mobile Phones – Student Use

### Purpose

To explain to our school community the Department's and Bethanga Primary School's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones during school hours.

### Scope

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Bethanga Primary School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones 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.

### Policy

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

At Bethanga 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 — Student Use Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Bethanga 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 Bethanga 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 Bethanga 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 Bethanga Primary School Personal Property Policy AND/OR the Department's [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Bethanga Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Bethanga Primary School students are required to hand their mobile phone to the classroom teacher to be placed in secure storage.

## Enforcement

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

At Bethanga 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
- 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
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty

### 2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception
Students with a health condition
Students who are Young Carers

### 3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception
Travelling to and from excursions
Students on excursions and camps
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

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**

Bethanga 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 events
- Travelling to and from school

## **Communication**

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## **Related Policies and Resources**

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement
- Bullying Prevention
- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)
- [Weapons — Banning, Searching and Seizing Harmful Items](#)
- [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)

## **Policy Review and Approval**

This policy was approved by Rachel Saunders, the Principal, in October 2024

This Policy has a recommended review cycle of 3-4 years. It is due for review in October 2027