	Mobile Phones – Student Use Policy	**June 2026**

Purpose

To clarify Belle Vue Park PS's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal smart devices during school hours.

Scope

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Belle Vue Park PS,
2. Students' personal mobile phones and other personal smart 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.

A smart device is any device which connects to a cellular telecommunications system and/or internet access, either with or without a physical connection to a network

For the purpose of this policy, the term "phone" refers to mobile phones or any smart device that may connect to, or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone, in may include, but is not limited to, items such as notepads/iPads or smart watches etc. Parents are to program iwatches so students cannot use them during school hours.

Policy

Belle Vue Park PS understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Belle Vue Park PS:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and handed in to the office to be 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 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 Belle Vue Park PS 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 Belle Vue Park PS are considered valuable items and they are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk.

Students are encouraged to NOT bring a mobile phone to school, unless there is a compelling reason to do so and prior notification has been provided to the school administration staff.

Please note that Belle Vue Park PS 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 which are brought into the school. Refer to the Department's Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Belle Vue Park Primary School will provide secure storage at the school's admin office. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so.

Students may collect their mobile phone from the school administration staff office at the end of the school day, or when leaving early, i.e. medical appointment.

ENFORCEMENT

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Belle Vue Park PS may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing Student Engagement, Wellbeing and Inclusion policy, our Bullying policy or at the discretion of the Principal.

At Belle Vue Park PS inappropriate use of mobile phones is any use during school hours, unless an exception has been granted, and particularly use of a mobile phone:

- Which in any way disrupts the learning of others;
- to send inappropriate, harassing and/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 express permission;
- to capture video or images of other students, teachers or members of the school community 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/or

- 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	Documentation
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)	Unit of work, learning sequence
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

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan – i.e. a student with diabetes may use their mobile phone to monitor their blood sugar;

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

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

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

Belle Vue Park PS will provide students and their parents/carers with information about items that can, or cannot, be brought to camps, excursions, special activities and events, this includes personal mobile phones and/or smart devices.

EXCLUSIONS

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-school-hours events;
- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Travelling to and from school.

Review date	June 2026
Reviewed by	Principal
Next review	June 2029