



Somers School Camp



Mobile Phones – Student Use

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Somers School Camp at either campus and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones brought onto school premises during school hours.

DEFINITIONS

A mobile phone is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network. 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.

POLICY

Somers School Camp specifically requests that students do not bring any technology including mobile phones to camp. There may be limited circumstances when one is required and this policy relates to these occasions.

At Somers School Camp:

- Students who pre-arrange to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored in the Administration Building during their time at camp.
- 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 Somers School Camp, 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 Somers School Camp 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



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bring a mobile phone to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that Somers School Camp 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 Somers School Camp's Personal Property Policy AND/OR the Department's [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Somers School Camp will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Somers School Camp students are required to store their phones by handing into the school administration office to be placed in a lockable cupboard or similar.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Somers School Camp may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies *e.g. Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and/or *Code of Conduct* or *Bullying* policies.

At Somers School Camp 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

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy:

- may be applied 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

Mobile Phones are not required for any of the learning experiences at Somers School Camp.

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

| Specific exception | Documentation |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Students with a health condition | Student Health Support Plan |



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| Students who are Young Carers | A localised student record |
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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 |

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

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school’s website (or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method)
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- *Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Code of Conduct, Personal Property, Bullying Policies*
- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)
- DET policies via PAL on [Weapons — Banning, Searching and Seizing Harmful Items & Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

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|----------------------------|---|
| Policy last reviewed | 1 st June 2022 |
| Consultation | School Council (April 2023), Principal (17/06/2022) |
| Approved by | Mark Warner, Principal |
| Next scheduled review date | 1 st June 2025 |