

Mobile Phones – Student Use



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Pakenham Consolidated School on 5941 1511 or email Pakenham.cs@education.vic.gov.au

PURPOSE

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

DEFINITIONS

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

POLICY

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

At Pakenham Consolidated 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 administration office on 03 5941 1511

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 Pakenham Consolidated 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 and other personal devices owned by students at Pakenham Consolidated 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 Pakenham Consolidated 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.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Pakenham Consolidated School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Pakenham Consolidated School year five and six students are required to store their phones in the locked cabinet in the Year Five/Six hallway. Foundation to Year Four student's mobile devices are stored in the Administration Office.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Pakenham Consolidated School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies.

At Pakenham Consolidated 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 the school toilets, changing rooms, swimming pools and gyms

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	Required
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)	Unit of work
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	Individual Learning Plan

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Required
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan showing need for device
Students who are Young Carers	A localised student record

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

Pakenham Consolidated 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. Personal mobile phones are not permitted or required at these events as students are always supervised.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

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

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Mobile Phones - Department Policy](#)
- [Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)
- [Personal Goods - Department policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated in August 2024 and is scheduled for review in August 2026.