



If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the Office

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Upwey High 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

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

At Upwey High School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored in lockers during school hours.
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see below for further information)
- When emergencies occur, families should reach their child by calling the General 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 Upwey High 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 Upwey High School are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or family'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 Upwey High School does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft. Students and their families are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items. Refer to the Department's [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Upwey High School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Upwey High School students are required to store their phones in their lockers.

Mobile Phones – Student Use

ENFORCEMENT

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Upwey High School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school’s existing student engagement policies: *Student Wellbeing and Engagement and Bullying Prevention* policies.

At Upwey High 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
- 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
- Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite.
- can be granted by the Principal 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 which has been given prior approval
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	Individual Education Plan

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan
Students who are Young Carers	A localised student record

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment planning documentation
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	Risk assessment planning documentation

Mobile Phones – Student Use

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

Upwey High 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
- Wearable devices
- Students undertaking workplace learning activities, e.g. work experience
- Students who are undertaking VET

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school’s website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included on Audiri
- Included in staff handbook
- Discussed at annual Re induction briefing
- Discussed at parent information nights
- Hard copy available from General Office upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)
- [Bullying Prevention Policy](#)
- [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2023
Consultation	Education Committee
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	June 2026