Thornton Public School



Mobile Phone & Wearable Policy

Dear Parents,

Thornton Public School acknowledges the educational value of digital devices and online services in supporting and enhancing educational outcomes and student wellbeing. We also recognise they may cause harm if used inappropriately and that we need to support our students to use them in safe, responsible and respectful ways.

**PURPOSE**

To explain to our school community the Department’s and Thornton Public School’s policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices including wearable technology such as,smart watches, during school hours.

**SCOPE**

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Thornton Public School and,

2. Students’ personal mobile phones including wearable technology 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.

Wearable technology is any device that can be worn that connects to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network. It may take phone calls, send messages or take photos that can be transmitted to others outside school.

**POLICY**

Thornton Public School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone or some form of wearable technology to school, particularly if they are traveling independently to and from school.

At Thornton Public School:

● Students who choose to bring mobile phones or wearable technology to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours

● During school hours and when emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school’s office.

**Secure storage**

Mobile phones owned by students at Thornton Public 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 Thornton Public 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.

**Enforcement**

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Thornton Public School may be issued with consequences consistent with the departments polices around mobile phones in primary schools.

At Thornton Public School, inappropriate use of mobile phones, any wearable technology or other device is considered to be any use during school hours, unless an exception has been granted, and particularly use of a mobile phone, wearable technology or other device:

● in any way that disrupts the learning of others

● to send inappropriate, harassing or threatening messages or phone calls

● to contact a parent or carer

● 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

**Exceptions**

Exceptions to the policy:

● may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically,

o Health and wellbeing-related exceptions; and

o 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 two categories of exceptions allowed under the Department’s Mobile Phones Policy are:

1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception Documentation

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

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**

Thornton Public School does not allow students to take mobile phones or other devices (including iPads) to camps, excursions, special activities and events.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

● Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)

● Out-of-school-hours events

● Traveling to and from school

● iPads and all other personal devices

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

● Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Code of Conduct, Personal Property, Bullying Policies.

● Mobile Phones – Department Policy

● Personal Goods – Department policy