

# School Policy

## Mobile Phone Policy – Student Use

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### Purpose

To explain to our school community, the Department's and Avenues Education's policy requirements and expectations relation to student usage of mobile phones during school hours.

### Scope

1. All students (involved in Day Programs) at Avenues Education
2. Student's personal mobile phones

### Definitions

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

### Policy

Avenues Education understands that student may bring a personal mobile to Programs, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from the Program.

At Avenues Education:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to the Program must have them switched off and securely stored during the Program
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met
- When emergencies occur, parents or carer should reach their child by calling the Program Co-ordinator

### Personal Mobile Phone Use

In accordance with the Department's Mobile Phone Policy issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Avenues Education during program hours, unless an exemption 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 Avenues Education are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student or parent/carer's) risk. Student are encouraged not to bring a mobile phone to Program unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that Avenues Education does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft. Students and their parent/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items. Refer to the Department's Personal Goods policy.

Where students bring a mobile phone to Program, Eastern Health CYMHS will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Avenues Education students are required to hand their phones to a teacher / Health Staff to be placed in a lockable cupboard.

### Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Avenues Education may be issued with a consequence consistent with the school's Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy. At Avenues Education inappropriate use of mobile phones is any use during Program hours, unless an exception has been granted, and particularly if a mobile phone is used:

- In any way that disrupts the learning of others
- To send inappropriate, harassing or threatening message or phone calls
- To engage in inappropriate social media use including cyberbullying
- To capture video or images of people without their permission

### **Exclusions and Exceptions**

This policy does not apply to

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

Exceptions to this policy may be applied during Program hours if certain conditions are met, specifically

- Health and wellbeing-related exceptions; and
- Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Exceptions can be granted by the Principal or nominee in accordance with the Department's Mobile Phone Policy. The three categories of exception allowed under this policy are

- Learning-related exceptions
- Health and wellbeing-related exceptions
- Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

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

### **Excursions and Extra-Curricular Activities**

Avenues Education will provide students and their parents/carers with information about items that can or cannot be bought to special activities (outings)

### **Related Policies and Resources**

Personal Goods – Department Policy

Mobile Phones – Department Policy

Avenues Education Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy

### **Review Period**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle. This policy was last updated in January 2020 and is scheduled for review in January 2023.