



## Digital Device Policy

### Purpose

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

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Budgewoi Public School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

### Policy

Budgewoi Public School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone during school hours.

This policy applies to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Budgewoi Public School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored at the office during school hours
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see below for further information)
- When parents are needing to, parents or carers **must** contact their child by calling the school's office.
- The school does not accept responsibility for any theft, loss or damage of mobile phones or wearable devices.

### Personal mobile phone use

In accordance with the Department's **Digital Device Policy**, personal mobile phones must not be used by students at Budgewoi Public 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.

### Storing Mobile phones

Mobile phones owned by students at Budgewoi 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 specific reason to do so. Please note that Budgewoi Public School does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft. Where students bring a mobile phone to school, students must hand phones into the school office or hand them to the class teacher who will provide storage. At Budgewoi Public School students are responsible for collecting the mobile phone at the end of the day.

**Enforcement**

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Budgewoi Public School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school’s existing discipline policy.

At Budgewoi Public 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 or the playground
- 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
- can be granted by the principal, or by the teacher for that class, in accordance with the Department’s **Digital Device Policy** <https://policies.education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2020-0471?refid=285859>

The categories of exceptions allowed 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	Student Diabetes Management Plans and Health Support Plans

## **2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions**

<b>Specific exception</b>	<b>Documentation</b>
Students with a health condition	Student Diabetes Management Plans and Health Support Plans

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**

Budgewoi Public School will provide students and their parents and carers with information about items that can or cannot be brought to camps including personal mobile phones.