

Mobile Communication Devices Policy

Southern Montessori Education Centre Inc.

Version	Approved By	Date	Maintained By	Next Review
3	Board of Governors	May 2020	Governance	May 2023

Policy Statement

Southern Montessori School takes the safe and responsible use of digital technologies, student safety and wellbeing, and the development of social skills and positive behaviour, very seriously.

Whilst the Centre acknowledges that we live in a technology-rich world where mobile communication devices are an important communication tool, research has found that they can be disruptive in classrooms and open to misuse at school. Potential risks for children from their use are becoming a significant concern and include cyber bullying and distraction from learning.

This policy will remove a major distraction from our classrooms and playground, so that teachers can teach, and students can learn in a more focused, positive and supported environment.

Definition

For the purpose of this policy, a mobile communication device is a device with access to a cellular (telecommunications) system and/or Wi-Fi and/or Bluetooth.

Guidelines

Students who choose to bring mobile communication devices to school must have the device switched off and securely stored during school hours.

Exceptions are allowed for students who have approval from the principal to use a device to monitor health conditions. Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the device for the purpose for which it was granted.

Where students bring a mobile communication device to school, the Centre will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so.

Parents or guardians take full responsibility for their child's use of the device at all times. The Centre accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile devices.

Students found using their mobile communication device during school hours will have their device confiscated for the remainder of the day. Repeated breaches will attract further limitations and parents will be contacted.

These guidelines also apply to students during school excursions and curriculum extension activities.

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Document History and Version Control Table

Version	Date Approved	Approved By	Brief Description
1	2016	Board of Governors	Creation of original document
2	Aug 2019	Board of Governors	Review ratified at Board
3	May 2020	Board of Governors	Review ratified at Board

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