

Rationale:

Mobile phones and smartwatches have become an integral part of modern life. St Mary's School staff understands that there are times when possession of a mobile phone/smart watch can provide a sense of safety and security while travelling to and from school.

Mobile phones/Smart watches are unnecessary during school hours as a method of communicating with students given the primary school setting. There are also concerns about the misuse of mobile phone/smart watches in a school environment e.g. bullying, interruptions in class, distraction, inappropriate photography.

Aims:

The school aims to provide a happy, safe and stimulating learning environment for all students. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that mobile phone/smart watches usage does not disrupt this learning environment. The policy seeks to clarify the responsibilities of staff and students with regard to mobile phone/smart watches.

Implementation:

In general, students should not bring valuable items to school as they can be easily lost which is often distressing for a child. Parents and students are advised that in bringing a mobile phone/smart watch to school, they are doing so at their own risk and must comply with this policy.

Students must hand in mobile phones and smart watches to their class teacher for safekeeping during school hours.

It has always been the school's practice to pass on important messages from parents to students throughout the day. This can be done by phoning the school office on 9398 4842, and requesting that a message be given to the child.

Any student found to be using a mobile phone/smart watch from the time they arrive at school will have the device confiscated and returned to them at the end of the school day. Parents will also be notified.

No mobile phones/smart watches are to be taken on excursions, camps or school events. Whilst on an excursion, the school can contact the teacher in charge if there is an issue or concern. Parents will be provided with an emergency contact number when students are off-site overnight.

Students and their parents/carers are responsible for loss or damage to their mobile phone/smart watch. St Mary's School does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage. Parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items, including mobile phone/smart watches that may be brought to school.