

Rationale:

Mobile phones/Smart watches (watches capable of communication/taking images or video) have become an important and invaluable part of our modern lifestyle. 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:

If a mobile phone/smart watch is required for the reasons of safety for travelling to and from school, mobile phones must be handed in to the office for safekeeping and smart watches must be set to "School Mode" during school hours. Information on how to do this can be easily found online. If "School Mode" is not available on your child's smart watch, it will be treated the same way as a mobile phone.

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 and the mobile phone/smart watch Code of Practice. Students and parents are required to sign and return the attached *Mobile Phone/Smart Watch Usage Agreement* to the school indicating their acceptance of the school's requirements.

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.

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.

Any student found to be using a mobile phone/smart watch (not in School Mode) 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.

Students 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. Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items, including mobile phone/smart watches that may be brought to school.

Mobile phone/smart watch Code of Practice

I agree to abide by the following rules when I bring my mobile phone/smart watch to school:

Mobile phones	Smart watches
<p>I will turn it off and hand it to the office staff as soon as I arrive at school each morning</p> <p>I will not have access to my mobile phone during school hours and any phone calls/text that need to be made are to be made through the school office. If anyone needs to contact me during the school day they are to phone the school office and leave a message.</p>	<p>When I bring my smartwatch to school I will ensure it is set to School Mode. If I cannot set my smartwatch to School Mode, I will hand it in to be locked away securely and I can collect it at the end of the day from the office.</p> <p>I will not have access to make or receive any phone calls/texts on my smartwatch during school hours. These instead need to be made through the school office. If anyone needs to contact me during the school day they are to phone the school office and leave a message.</p>