



# St. Peter's Primary School

## East Bentleigh

Developing Lifelong Learners

## MOBILE PHONE & SMART WATCH POLICY

### **Rationale:**

At St Peter's Bentleigh East, we understand that mobile phones and smart watches have become an important and invaluable part of our modern lifestyle. The school 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 and 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 phones and smart watches in a school environment. These include but are not limited to:

- security
- interruptions to class programs
- inappropriate use or overuse
- bullying
- inappropriate photography
- accessing social media

### **Aims:**

St Peter's Bentleigh East, aims to provide a happy, safe and stimulating learning environment for all students. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that mobile phone and smart watch usage does not disrupt this learning environment. The policy seeks to clarify the responsibilities of staff and students with regard to mobile phones and smart watches.

### **Implementation:**

Due to these potential issues, we prefer that students do not bring mobile phones and smart watches to school. If, however, parents do require their child to have a mobile phone/smart watch at school the following procedures apply:

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1. Students in Prep - Year 4 must hand their mobile/smart watch into the front office where it will be signed in and kept securely for the school day. Students in Years 5 & 6 have 2 lock boxes kept in two classrooms for each year level. These boxes are locked and the keys are retained by the classroom teacher for the duration of the school day. All phones and or smart watches can be collected/accessed at the end of the school day on the bell at 3:25pm.
2. Smart Watches which have had all communication features (text, phone calls, social media and wifi communication) disabled as well as cameras disabled will be allowed to remain with the student.
3. All students found to be using the mobile phone/smart watch in an inappropriate manner e.g. bullying, inappropriate photography or texts, will have the phone/watch confiscated and returned to the parent. The student would also be subject to disciplinary action.
4. Any phone calls which students need to make, must be made through the Front Office.
5. Should parents need to contact their child, then this should be done through the Front Office. One of our Front Office staff will ensure that the message is given to the child.

Please be aware that the school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones/smart watches that are damaged or lost as a result of not following the procedures outlined above.

**Evaluation:**

The staff regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the Mobile Phone & Smart Watch Policy and revise the policy when required.

**\*A Smart Watch is defined in this policy as one which can record video, take photos and has the ability to communicate through text message, phone calls, social media and any wifi communication.**

Updated May 2019

Reviewed by Board June 2019

Next policy review: April, 2021.

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# Mobile Phone & Smart Watch User Agreement:

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

1. When I bring my mobile phone to school I will turn it off and hand it to the office staff before the start of school each morning. The mobile phone will be locked away securely and returned to me at the end of the day.
2. When I wear my smart watch to school all communication features (text, calls and wifi communication) and video/photo features will be disabled.
3. I will not have access to my mobile phone during school hours and any phone calls that need to be made are to be made through the Front Office. If anyone needs to contact me during the school day they are to phone the Front Office and leave a message.

Outside of school hours of 8:30am to 3.25pm, while I am on school property I understand that the following rules apply:

- I do not give out the personal details of another person.
- I do not give out phone numbers without the permission of the person or people concerned.
- I only send sms/picture/video/voice messages or make phone calls that use appropriate language.
- I always have a person's permission when taking photographs or making video or voice recordings.
- I do not send any type of message or make phone calls that are unpleasant or that are meant to frighten or upset another person.
- I report to a teacher or my parent or guardian any SMS/picture/video messages or phone calls that are unpleasant or make me feel uncomfortable in any way.
- I understand that breaches of the mobile phone & smart watch code of practice may result in my being forbidden from bringing my phone/watch to school.