



Mobile Phone/Smart Watch Policy

Purpose and Scope

St Benedict's Catholic Primary School is implementing this policy to ensure responsible use of mobile phones and Smart watches by students at school and related school activities. The policy applies to students of the school while they are in class, on school grounds or involved in school activities on or off campus.

Rationale

The increased ownership of mobile phones and Smart watches requires that we take steps to ensure that both are used responsibly. While it is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone &/ Smart watch gives parents reassurance that their child can contact them in emergency situations or in risk situations involving personal security and safety, this is not necessary during the school day when students have access to school phones and personnel.

Mobile Phone &/Smart Watch Use

1. It is our strong preference at St Benedict's Primary, that students do not bring mobile phones or SMART watches to school (watches for telling the time, without communication functionality are the preferred option).
2. For a student to be permitted to have a mobile phone at school or a Smart watch, their parents must first have signed the Mobile Devices Permission Slip, have read and understood St Benedict's Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Policy and returned their slip to the office. A register of these forms will be kept in the school office.
3. The school accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones at, or en-route to, or from school.
4. **The use of mobile phones from the time of arrival at school until 2:50pm is strictly prohibited. During this time mobile phones must be switched off and remain out of sight.**
5. **The use of SMART watches from the time of arrival at school until 2:50pm is strictly prohibited. SMART watches must have notifications switched off and remain out of sight at all times.**
6. If a student is found with a mobile phone or Smart watch in breach of this policy, it will be reported to the Principal. On the first instance a warning will be issued to the student. Any subsequent breach of this policy, the mobile phone/ Smart watch will be confiscated and it will be held in the school office until a parent formally requests its return from the Principal. Subsequent breaches of this policy will result in the student's mobile phone being held by the Principal until a parent formally requests its return and the right to bring a mobile phone or Smart watch to school may be revoked for a time determined by the Principal.

7. The use of mobile phones/ Smart watches to menace, harass or offend another person is a criminal offence. While on school grounds, students who use their phones/ Smart watches to engage in personal attacks to harass another person or take unauthorised photos or video footage or post private information about another person, will have their mobile phone/ Smart watch confiscated and their right to have a phone / Smart watch at school will be revoked. The Principal may involve the Police should the mobile phone/ Smart watch be used inappropriately.
8. If parents have to make contact with their son(s) or daughter(s) during the school day, this is still to be done through the School Office.
9. It is strongly advised that students use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones. Students should keep their passwords/pin numbers confidential.