

### Rationale

We aim to empower our students to engage and learn with confidence, courage and empathy by providing an education that inspires them to be digital citizens who reflect on God's good character.

The school discourages students from bringing mobile phones and smartwatches to school. These communication devices cause disruption in classrooms and the playground and can be used inappropriately to access social media and take photographs without permission. This can cause distress and breach the privacy of others.

There is research evidence suggesting that when people carry phones or wear a smartwatch, they display lower levels of concentration due to

- Constant interruptions
- An increased fear of missing out
- Reduced memory
- Increased levels of stress
- Reduced cognitive capacity

Parents are able to contact their children by contacting the school on 4422 1199.

### Details

The school has provided guidelines, as outlined below, to cover the use of mobile phones, smartwatches and electronic devices during school hours (which includes while the student is at the school premises.)

- Devices brought to and kept at school are used entirely at the owner's risk. The school cannot accept any responsibility for theft, loss or damage to these devices;
- Phones and watches are not to be used to call home in an emergency. This is the responsibility of the school;
- Mobile phones are to be kept in the student's bag, at all times including before school recess, lunchtime and after school. They must be switched off or on silent.
- Smartphone, smartwatch, notification and location alerts must be switched off.
- Phones and watches are not to be used to call home in the event of a mishap at school or because belongings have been forgotten unless at a teacher's discretion or under the supervision of the teacher.
- Phones and watches are not to be used in the classroom, playground or during incursions/excursions for any of the following purposes: to check text messages or to access games, internet, images, camera or videos.

Any phones or watches being used during the day will be confiscated and students will be given a lunch detention. Confiscated mobile phones or watches will be kept in the front office. Students will be allowed to collect their mobile phones or watches at the conclusion of the school day. Should this situation occur on a frequent basis, parents/carers may be asked to collect the phone or watch from the school office. The school can take no responsibility for the security of any electronic items brought onto school premises.

In the case of school excursions or school camps involving an overnight stay, the school does not allow students to carry mobile phones. (Staff mobile phone numbers will be made available to parents/carers for emergency purposes.)

Mobile phone cameras (still and video) must not be used:

- in inappropriate locations such as changing rooms, toilets, gyms and swimming pools
- to film people and their activities without their knowledge or permission
- to send harassing or threatening messages.

## Related Documents

Cyber Safety Policy

Secondary Discipline Policy

Excellent Digital Citizenship

Excellent Digital Citizenship Contract

Acceptable communication (online) Policy (Students)

BYOD Equity Policy