

## High School Student Personal Mobile Device Policy (Smart Phones, Watches and similar devices)

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| <b>Purpose:</b>       | This policy aims to remove unnecessary distractions from our classrooms and playgrounds, so that teachers can teach, and students can learn in a more focused, positive and supportive environment.<br><br>This is a compulsory policy and applies at all times. |   |
| <b>Scope:</b>         | All Students   |   |
| <b>Status:</b>        | Approved   | <b>Supersedes:</b> January 2025         |
| <b>Authorised by:</b> | School Director  | <b>Date of Authorisation:</b> July 2025 |
| <b>References:</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Health and Wellbeing Policy</li> <li>• Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Complaints Resolution Policy</li> </ul>  |   |
| <b>Review Date:</b>   | Annually   | <b>Next Review Date:</b> July 2026      |
| <b>Policy Owner:</b>  | School Director  |   |

### Rationale

SVSS takes the safe and responsible use of digital technologies, student safety and wellbeing, along with the development of social skills and positive behaviour very seriously. Whilst we acknowledge that we live in a technology rich world where mobile devices are an important communication tool, mobile devices can be disruptive in classrooms and are open to misuse at school. The unregulated presence of personal mobile devices in classrooms can undermine students' capacity to think, learn, remember, pay attention, regulate emotion and build resilience.

While it is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone or smart watch may give parents/guardians reassurance that their child can contact them in emergency situations involving personal security and safety, this is not necessary during the school day when students have access to supervised environments and existing school communication processes. Only digital devices issued by the school may be used by students during the school day.

It is strongly recommended that students do not bring personal mobile devices to school. If they are brought to school,

High School students' devices will need to be kept *off* and in their school bag *any time while* on campus.

Primary School students must keep their device in their bag and off whilst on campus before and after school. The Primary School student will need to hand their device to their class

teacher at 8:30am and may collect it at 2:45pm. The device must be kept in their bags until off campus.

Students may use the office telephone to contact their parents, and parents may telephone the office if they need to message or talk to their child.

## Definitions

Devices - for the purpose of this policy, include but not limited to mobile phones, tablets, gaming devices, devices with a camera, data/sim enabled smart watches and fitness trackers, air pods and any other devices that have the potential to communicate and access internet and mobile network technologies.

## Policy Details

- If a device is needed for a medical reason, prior consent must be sought from the School Director. Parent/s, the Faculty Director and the student will be required to sign an agreement to this effect.
- This policy applies to smart watches and any other smart networked device (Bluetooth, WiFi, Sim).
- Students may be contacted by parents or guardians through the front desk on (07) 3430 9600, during school hours.
- Students are not permitted to use another person's device at school.
- No images or video of any student, staff or person may be recorded at school without prior *written permission* from the Faculty Director or School Director.
- If images of other students or teachers have been taken, the camera, mobile phone or smart watch/device will not be returned to the student until the images have been removed by the student in the presence of an appropriate staff member and the breach section of the policy enacted.
- This policy also applies to students during assessment, school excursions, camps, festivals and extra-curricular activities.
- Personal digital devices are used at their owner's risk. In the event of the loss, theft or damage of any device, the school will accept no liability.
- Any illegal activity will be reported.

## Breaches of Policy

*Note:* devices must be *off* and in their bag when on campus. Below outline the steps if a student breaches this policy.

**Strike One:** If a student is found to have breached this policy, the device will be confiscated and handed into the Office. The parent/s will be notified and will be *required to retrieve the device* from the school office. The student will NOT be able to retrieve the device after school, only a parent or legal guardian will be given the device.

**Strike Two:** If the student breaches this requirement again, a parent meeting is required for the student to have the device returned, and a signed agreement will be put in place. This

*Behavior Contract* will require the student's phone or device to be turned off and handed in to the office immediately the student arrives each day. The phone may be retrieved at the close of the school day.

**Strike Three:** If there is a further breach of this policy, the student or their parent/s will be required to purchase a magnetic locking sleeve as part of an escalated Behavior Contract (e.g. [Yondr case](#)). The student will be supervised each morning to turn off their phone and lock it in their own magnetic locking pouch and then place it in their bag. The magnetic locking sleeve will be unlocked under supervision at the end of the school day. This "Strike Two" contract will remain in place for a minimum of three months and will then be reviewed.