

St Mary MacKillop PS

Mobile Phone & Smart Watch Policy



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MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community St Mary MacKillop's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones [and other personal mobile devices such as Smart Watches] during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- All students at St Mary MacKillop Primary School and,
- Students' personal mobile phones [and other personal mobile devices eg. Smart watches] brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

DEFINITIONS

A mobile phone is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network. "For the purpose of this policy, "mobile phone" refers to mobile phones and any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watches."

POLICY

St Mary MacKillop Primary School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone or smart watch to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At St Mary MacKillop Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored in secured box in the classroom during school hours. Smart watches must be set to School Mode and not connected during the school day.
- When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office.

Personal mobile phone use

In accordance with the Department's Mobile Phones Policy issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at St Mary MacKillop Primary School during school hours, including lunchtime and recess.

Secure storage

Mobile phones owned by students at St Mary MacKillop Primary School are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Students are encouraged not to bring a mobile phone to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. **Please note that St Mary MacKillop Primary School does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft.** Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, St Mary MacKillop Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At St Mary MacKillop Primary School students are required to hand their phones to the classroom teacher to be placed in a lockable box.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at St Mary MacKillop Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing policies (Student Wellbeing and Anti-Bullying Policy).

At St Mary MacKillop Primary School there is to be no use of mobile phones **during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted.

Students are not to use their Mobile Phones:

- in any way that disrupts the learning of others
- to send inappropriate, harassing or threatening messages or phone calls
- to engage in inappropriate social media use including cyber bullying
- to capture video or images of people, including students, teachers and members of the school community without their permission, and
- to capture video or images in the school toilets, school buildings, gyms and school grounds (or surrounding areas afterschool)

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

St Mary MacKillop Primary School will provide students and their parents and carers with information about items that can or cannot be brought to camps, excursions, special activities and events, including personal mobile phones.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Child safety policies
- Privacy Policy
- Student Behaviour Policy.

REVISION HISTORY

| Student Mobile Phone Policy | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Version | Date Created | Revisions Made | Leader of Policy | Next Policy Review |
| 1 | February 2023 | Creation of policy | Anthony D'Amico | February 2024 |