



Mobile Phone Smartwatch Policy 2025

St. Mary's School – Ascot Vale

Introduction:

This policy outlines the appropriate use of mobile phones/smart watches on our school site. For the purposes of this policy, a smartwatch will be defined as any watch that is capable of sending/receiving messages or phone calls, and/or utilising applications.

Rationale:

The staff of St. Mary's School Ascot Vale recognise that many students and their families own a mobile phone/smart watch. We also recognise that some parents/guardians request that their child/ren bring a mobile phone/smart watch to school for before and after school safety/security reasons.

Our core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an environment free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions. Therefore, the school strongly discourages the bringing of mobile phones/smart watches to school by students. The school is prepared to allow mobile phones/smart watches on the premises but only within the parameters of the policy as stated below.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that:

- Mobile phone/smart watch use does not disrupt the teaching and learning environment for any student/s or teacher;
- Potential risks to student safety and well-being posed by inappropriate use of mobile phones/smart watches can be identified and addressed;
- Students, staff and parents have a clear understanding of school guidelines and personal responsibilities related to the appropriate use of mobile phones/smart watches.

Responsibility:

- a) St. Mary's School Ascot Vale **strongly discourages** students from bringing mobile phones/smart watches to school. However, in the instance where parents feel it is necessary for their child to have a mobile phone/smart watch in their possession at school, it is the responsibility of the student to abide by the appropriate use guidelines outlined in this document.
- b) The decision to provide a mobile phone/smart watch to their children should be made by parents or guardians who should be aware that their child is bringing a mobile phone/smart watch to school.
- c) Permission for students to have a mobile phone/smart watch at school is contingent on parents and students adhering to the Mobile Phone Smartwatch/Phone Policy
- d) It is the responsibility of all students and parents to comply with the appropriate use of mobile phones/smart watches guidelines as outlined in this document.

- e) The school accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones/smart watches. The school also accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their mobile phones/smart watches stolen whilst travelling to and from school or while on site.
- f) The school will provide storage for all mobile phones/smart watches that are brought to school in the School Office or students classroom.

Students:

- a) In general, students should not bring valuable items to school, as they can be easily lost, damaged or stolen, which is often distressing to a primary school-aged child.
- b) Students remain responsible for all of their personal effects whilst at school. When students enter the school grounds the school takes no responsibility for mobile phones/smart watches. Mobile phones/smart watches are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones/smart watches.
- c) There are no reasons why a student needs to have in their possession, or use, a mobile phone/smart watch during the school day.
- d) Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.
- e) If students do bring their mobile phone/smart watch to school, it should be clearly marked with their name.
- f) Students are not permitted to bring mobile phones/smart watches on school excursions and overnight camps under any circumstances. School staff will not be held responsible for the security of mobile phones/smart watches should this guideline be breached. In instances where students need to contact their parents this will be organised by supervising staff.
- g) At the Principal's or Principal's delegate's request, students may be required to unlock their mobile phone/smart watch.
- h) All mobile phones and Smart Watches will be placed in the office as soon as the child arrives at school, and collected after the final bell at the end of the day.
- i) Mobile phones and smart watches need to be signed in and out by the children. This ensures that mobile phones and watches aren't being used inappropriately, they are not a distraction and are not misplaced.

Unacceptable Use of Mobile Phones/Smart Watches:

Using mobile phones/smart watches in an inappropriate manner is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Inappropriate uses of mobile phones/smart watches includes but is not limited to:

- Using a mobile phone/smart watch during school hours
- Making calls or sending messages with the intent to bully, harass or threaten another person;
- Using mobile phones/smart watches to take photographs of other people without their consent;
- Using obscene, derogatory or socially unacceptable language while using a mobile phone/smart watch;
- Using mobile phones/smart watches to receive, download and display inappropriate photographs or other material.

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone/smart device to menace, harass or offend another person. The school may consider it appropriate to involve the police.

Related Technology:

Related technology such as portable computer games, iPads, tablets and other similar devices are not to be brought to school under any circumstances. The school accepts no responsibility for the security of these items and the procedures applying to the inappropriate use of mobile phones/smart watches will apply equally to these devices.

Implementation of this Policy:

- a) This policy has been ratified by St. Mary's School Ascot Vale School Board 18/03/2025
Teachers will discuss this policy with students to ensure they have a clear understanding of the guidelines and procedures.
- b) The community will be made aware of this policy through email, and the policy will be posted on the school's website.
- c) The policy will be made clear to all students and their parents seeking enrolment at St. Mary's School Ascot Vale.

References:

VIC Department of Education and Early Childhood Development – School Policy & Advisory Guide