



# ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

45 Belmont Street, Sutherland NSW 2232

Telephone: 9521 2163

Email: [info@stpsutherland.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stpsutherland.catholic.edu.au)

## **Mobile Device Policy- Term 3 2023**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety and privacy of all students, staff and parents at the school, as well as to minimise, or ideally eliminate, the dangers and distractions that mobile devices pose to the user when used inappropriately.

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School recognises that there are times when it is genuinely appropriate and useful for students to have access to a mobile phone or similar electronic device (including smart watches or other 'connected' devices) – for example, to contact parents in before or after school emergencies or to confirm or change a collection time after school. It is not necessary, nor acceptable, however, for mobile phones to be switched on, accessed or used during school hours or on school premises.

### **School Guidelines:**

The following 'common sense' rules apply with respect to mobile phones and smart watches:

- Courtesy, consideration of and respect for others are paramount at all times
- Mobile phones, tablets or smart watches are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk
- The School cannot accept any responsibility for theft, loss, damage, or other misadventure resulting from a student bringing a mobile device to school
- Parents and students are asked to respect the learning environment. Mobile devices should not be used in any manner or in any place that is on school property. This includes the sending and receiving of text messages, taking of photographs, video or audio recordings, making of phone calls or the sending/receiving of data of any kind
- These guidelines also refer to the use of mobile phones during excursions, athletics or swimming carnivals, or any other supervised school activities.

### **School Procedures for Stage 3 students:**

At the commencement of the school day:

1. Students will surrender their mobile device to the class teacher
2. The device will be placed in a secure container with other student devices within the classroom
3. At the end of the day, students will collect their device from the class teacher prior to dismissal.

### **School Procedures for Kindergarten- Year 4 students:**

Upon arrival at the school

1. Students will place their mobile phone in a labelled ziplock bag and sign in their mobile device to the office
2. The phone will be placed in a secure container with other student devices within the office
3. At the end of the day, students will collect their device from the office prior to dismissal.

### **For watches and other transmitting devices:**

1. Apple watches and other smart transmitting watch devices **MUST** be switched to Airplane mode or school mode/locked mode before a student enters the school grounds.
2. If a student uses their device during the school day for purposes other than telling the time (e.g. sending a message, playing a game, taking photos etc), the device will be taken from the student and stored in the office. A note saying that the student has breached our school Mobile Device Policy will be sent home and the student will not be allowed to bring their device for a week.

\*\* Please note, as previously stated in this policy, the School cannot accept any responsibility for theft, loss, damage, or other misadventure resulting from a student bringing a mobile device to school.

As per the Sydney Catholic Schools Student Acceptable Use Policy, the following consequences may apply to policy breaches:

*1.3 School devices or BYO Devices may be confiscated or accessed where there is a reasonable belief that:*

- *There has been or may be a breach of the school rules or policy*
- *There may be a threat of harm to a student or others.*

*1.4 Students will be required to cooperate with a direction from the school in providing access to the BYO devices. In an incident where this is required, parents of the students involved would be notified.*

In the event that a mobile device is confiscated for any breach of this school policy the school may require that a parent or caregiver attend the school to discuss the breach, and/or collect the device on behalf of the student.

### **In summary:**

When bringing a personal mobile phone or smartwatch onto school premises students will not attempt to:

- Use their device at all on school grounds or whilst attending school events
- Avoid surrendering their device at the commencement of each day
- Deliberately use the digital identity of another person to send text messages to others or for any other purposes
- Enter 'chat' or 'social networking' internet sites from their device
- Intentionally download or view unauthorised software, graphics or music at school on their device
- Disclose personal information about another person
- Take photos, record video or audio material of members of the school community (students, staff, parents) on their device
- Use unacceptable or unlawful material or remarks, including offensive, abusive or discriminatory comments about others
- Use threatening, bullying or harassing material or make unreasonable demands.

When students bring a personal mobile device onto school premises, their parents will not attempt to:

- Communicate, ring or text their children during school hours or whilst they are on school Grounds.