Hurstville Public School - Students use of Mobile Phones and Smartwatches - Management Plan

Rationale

Hurstville Public School supports the NSW Department of Education's Student Use of Mobile Phones in Schools policy and Digital Devices and Online Services for Students policy. Restricting mobile phone and smartwatch use during the school day helps minimise distractions, improve student engagement, encourage positive social interactions and reduce the risk of online bullying. Our school promotes the safe and responsible use of technology to support learning, wellbeing and the development of digital citizenship.

To support these expectations, Hurstville Public School implements an 'off and away' approach to mobile phones throughout the school day, including recess and lunch. Smartwatches with communication capabilities must have messaging, calling and notification functions disabled during school hours, although basic functions, such as telling the time, may still be used.

Mobile Phone and Smartwatch Management.

Hurstville Public School implements an **'off and away'** approach to personal digital devices, including mobile phones and smartwatches while students are on school grounds.

Students who bring these devices to school must:

- Keep personal digital devices securely stored and not use them from the time they enter school grounds until they leave, unless authorised by a teacher for educational purposes or covered by an approved exemption.
- Turn off mobile phones and store them securely in their school bags.
- Turn off communication, messaging and notification functions on smartwatches and store them securely in school bags.

Students are responsible for the safe storage and appropriate use of their personal devices. Other devices such as iPads, laptops, handheld gaming consoles and robotics should not be brought to school. This restriction does not apply to permitted location-tracking devices.

Inappropriate Use

Inappropriate use of mobile phones, smartwatches or other digital devices will be managed in accordance with the school's School Behaviour Support and Management Plan, School Behaviour System and Department of Education policies.

Exemptions

Exemptions may be granted for students with specific medical, wellbeing or learning needs. Parents and carers seeking an exemption should contact the school to discuss their child's circumstances. The principal, or delegate, will consider requests in consultation with the student, their family and relevant staff, and determine any necessary adjustments.

Location-Tracking Devices (e.g. Apple AirTags)

Parents and carers may use Apple AirTags or similar location-tracking devices to help monitor the location of their child's belongings.

These devices are permitted at school provided they do not have communication or recording capabilities and do not disrupt learning or school operations. Any devices with additional communication functions remain subject to the school's mobile phone and smartwatch guidelines.

The school is not responsible for monitoring, managing or maintaining these devices.

Contacting students

Parents and carers who need to contact their child during school hours should do so through the school office. Similarly, students who need to contact their parents or carers can seek assistance from school staff.

- **Phone**: (02) 9587 3963
- **Email**: hurstville-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

These guidelines will be implemented from Term 1 2027 and formally reviewed in 2029, or earlier at the principal's discretion.

Table 1 – policy review and approval

Action	Date or person
Guidelines last reviewed	November 2026
Consultation	P&C, parent and carer survey, school executive
Approved by	Principal – Mark Steed
Next scheduled review date	2029