

Student use of Mobile Phones and other Personal Mobile Devices Policy

1. Preamble/Rationale:

This policy sets clear rules and expectations about the student use of mobile phones and network connected devices while at school. It recognises the growing ownership or possession of mobile phones and other personal mobile devices by students and establishes boundaries relating to their use by students at school.

2. Values:

- To create a safe and supportive learning environment;
- To support students to respond to the unfamiliar with hope and resilience, by having the confidence and courage to seek help from their peers and staff while at school;
- To develop supportive relationships within the Stella Maris school community;
- To encourage students to develop effective communication and problem solving skills.

3. Policy Statement:

The school recognises that for some students it may be necessary for them to have a mobile phone or other personal mobile device for communication outside of school hours. While at school, students should always use appropriate communication channels and established processes to resolve issues. When students are present on school property during school hours, they are not permitted to use mobile phones and other personal mobile devices, unless in accordance with this policy as listed below.

4. Policy Implementation:

If a student brings a mobile phone or smart device to school, the following procedures are required to be followed:

- Students must ensure that their mobile phone and other personal mobile device is switched off and securely in their bag during the school day. Smart watches may be worn on a student's wrist, but must be in school mode (non telephone network mode) during school hours;
- The school takes no responsibility for the loss or damage to a student's mobile phone or other personal mobile device;
- Students cannot under any circumstances use their mobile phone during school hours. If a student needs to use their mobile phones or other personal mobile device before or after school hours, they are to check in with the teacher on duty. If practical, the student will then be directed to reception where contact with the child's parent can be made. Alternatively, the student will be able to use their mobile device to contact a parent after speaking with the teacher on duty.
- Students are not to use their mobile phones and other personal mobile devices to take photos, play games, access social media or use the internet while on school grounds or on bus transport home;
- Misuse of a mobile phone or other personal mobile device during the school day, will result in a student being required to hand in their mobile phone or other personal mobile device to the school office upon arrival and collect it at upon departure daily for one week ;
- Watches connected to a telecommunication system or network are only to be used in accordance with this policy;
- Any exceptions to this policy must be applied for in writing to the principal.

Definition of **device includes: Mobile Phone, iPads, Laptops, Network connected device, smart watch*

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