

St Marys District School

Use of Mobile Phones by Students at School Policy

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1. Purpose

To provide schools with support and additional information on the requirements for implementing the Department of Education policy on the *Use of Mobile Phones by Students at School*.

This document should be read and developed in association with the Department of Education policy on the *Use of Mobile Phones by Students at School*.

2. Policy Statement

The Department of Education does not permit the use of mobile phones by students in Tasmanian Government Schools unless for the approved exemptions outlined below.

It is important to note that it is not a requirement at **St Marys District School** for students to have a mobile phone at school. Some schools may be implementing the Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Policy and processes and this would fall under the approved exemption of direct teacher instruction.

St Marys District School recognises that an increasing number of parents/carers who for safety, security and/or emergency purposes wish to provide their child/children with mobile phones. This policy details the restriction and management of mobile phones at **St Marys District School**

CONDITIONS OF USE

- Students must not use mobile phones from the start to the end of the school day from Kindergarten to Year 12.
- Students must have their phones switched off and appropriately stored from the start to the end of the school day.
- Students with 'smart watches' must have them set to 'aeroplane mode'.

At St Marys District School:

- K – 4 students are not to bring mobile phones to school.
- 5 – 6 students are encouraged to not bring mobile phones to school. If they do bring mobile phones to school, grade 5 – 6 students will be required to switch off their mobile phone and hand it to the classroom teacher before the start of the school day. The classroom teacher will place all phones into a class container which will be stored securely in the school administration office for the school day. Phones will be returned to students at the end of the school day. The classroom teacher will ensure the student's mobile phones are easily identifiable.
- 7 – 12 students are encouraged to not bring mobile phones to school. If they do bring mobile phones to school, grade 7 – 12 students will be required to switch off their mobile phone and hand it to the classroom teacher before the start of the school day. The classroom teacher will place all phones into a class container which will be stored securely in the school administration office for the school day. Phones will be returned to students at the end of the school day. The classroom teacher will ensure the student's mobile phones are easily identifiable.

3. Exemptions

Requests for exemptions must be submitted to the **Mrs Carolyn Watson, Principal** for consideration.

St Marys District School students may only use their mobile phone for an **approved** exemption as listed below:

- For students with a reasonable adjustment to a learning program because of a disability and/or learning difficulty.
- For students with health conditions where a mobile phone is used to monitor the condition.
- For students who are young carers.
- For students undertaking school activities outside of school hours that are not on school campuses.
- Where students have been given direct instruction by a teacher to use their mobile phone for educational purposes (including under the BYOT policy/procedures).
- For students experiencing extenuating circumstances other than the above, where agreed by the principal or their delegate.

COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

- While at **St Marys District School**, students are the responsibility of the school. All communication between parents/carers and students, during school hours, must occur through the school office.

- **St Marys District School** has a duty of care for all students while they are at school. All communication between parents/carers and students, during school hours, must occur through the school office.
- Where a student has been granted an exemption, the mobile phone can be used by the student for the purposes of the exemption only. Phone use will be monitored by school staff. When not in use, for the purposes of the exemption, the phone must be switched off and stored, in accordance with this policy.

4. Non-compliance with this policy

- Non-compliance with this policy will be managed in accordance with the school's Respectful Student Behaviour Policy.

- Students who do not comply with this policy may have their mobile phone confiscated and held at the school office. The parent/carer may be informed and requested to collect the mobile phone at their earliest convenience.
- In the case of repeated inappropriate mobile phone use by a student, the Principal or their delegate may request the student not bring the mobile phone to school.
- Further disciplinary action, in accordance with **St Marys District School** Respectful Student Behaviour Policy may be a result of repeated non-compliance and/or depending on the circumstances of the non-compliance.

5. Supporting information

- Frequently Asked Questions for Families

STORAGE OPTIONS

Schools must determine an appropriate storage approach for student mobile phones in consultation with their School Association.

Schools may use a range of storage and student mobile phone identification approaches that are appropriate to the context of their school's mobile phone policy and management procedures.

Examples of student mobile phone storage and identification systems include, but are not limited to:

- Mobile phone is switched off and kept in clear plastic snap lock bag with name clearly marked on bag and handed in as per school policy.

6. Definitions

Mobile phone

Is a mobile device with access to a cellular (telecommunications) system, with or without a physical connection to a network. This includes smart watches, tablets, and associated listening accessories, such as, but not limited to, headphones and earbuds.

Responsibilities: Must and May

- The word 'MUST' is to be interpreted as being mandatory.
- The words 'is to' and 'are to' are to be interpreted as directory (highly recommended).
- The word 'may' is to be interpreted as being discretionary or enabling as the context requires.

School hours

Is the official start time of the school day, to the official end time of the school day.

7. Legislation

- Secretary's Instruction No 3 for Unacceptable Behaviour of Students and Volunteers at, and Visitors to, State Schools or School Activities
- Secretary's Instruction No 4 for Suspension, Exclusion, Expulsion or Prohibition of State School Students

Internal Information Only*

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