**Mobile Communication Device Policy**

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**Vision Statement**

St Mary’s School is a community who walks in the footsteps of Jesus and works in partnership with families in the Josephite tradition, to develop and educate the whole child in a safe learning environment.

**Child Safe Statement**

St Mary’s Primary School is committed to child safety, where all children have the right to be treated with respect and to be protected from harm.

**Rationale:**

The pursuit of quality education is based upon the human dignity of each person.  The effective implementation of behavioural management practices at St Mary’s Primary School should occur as a consequence of its Catholic Ethos and be in line with our School-wide positive behaviour framework.  We acknowledge the necessity of creating an environment which is conducive to promoting the social and emotional wellbeing of the whole school community.

**Aims:**

* To educate students on their role and responsibilities as a digital citizen, including awareness of dangers and managing their online identities (digital footprint).
* To ensure that all students are aware of their responsibilities with regards to bringing mobile communication devices to school and the use of these devices including smart phones and smart watches.
* To have clear understandings between students, parents and the school around mobile communication devices on school grounds.

**Implementation:**

* Students, teachers and parents will be made aware of our school’s Mobile Communication Device Policy.
* Students and teachers will work through/discuss these issues using our school’s ICT Scope and Sequence.
* Parents, teachers, students and the community will be aware of the school’s position on cyber-bullying.

**Agreed Understandings:**

* Students are not to use a mobile communication device while at school including; cellular / smart watches and smartphones.
* If a student is required to bring a mobile phone to school they must hand it to the administration staff in the office, who will store it in the safe for the day.
* All mobile phones will be turned to ‘flight mode’ during the school day.
* If a student is found to have an active smart phone or watch in their possession during school time it will be handed into the administration office and can only be collected by the child’s parent.
* Smart watches are not to be connected to phones therefore not receiving calls or messages while at school or they too will be kept at the administration office for collection by a parent.
* In line with our Child Safe requirements and Privacy Laws, Smart watches are not to be used to take photos/images at school.

This policy will be reviewed with staff and parent input as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

**Policy Updates**

Created: Feb 2021

Reviewed: Feb 2023

Next Review: 2024