

St Joseph's School Murray Bridge Years Rec to Year 9

Communication Device Guidelines (Mobile Phones and Smartwatches)

MISSION:

Empower our students to engage and learn with confidence, courage and empathy by providing an education that inspires them to become global citizens.

The school discourages students from bringing mobile phones and smartwatches to school. For the purposes of these guidelines, 'communication devices' refer to personal mobile phones and smartwatches.

The school understands that communication devices offer a service to some families. Safety and communication concerns may require that some students have a mobile phone with them i.e., travelling to and from school without adult supervision or travelling on a bus.

There are, however, issues associated with mobile phones and smartwatches on school grounds. These include security, interruptions to school operations and student perceptions of equity and privacy. Because of these issues, we have developed guidelines for mobile phones and smartwatches.

GUIDELINES:

Parents can contact their children by ringing the school phone number 85342000. If a parent feels it is necessary for their child to bring a mobile phone to school, **they must inform the Principal via email**. Smartwatches do not require permission, but the 'Condition of Use' must be followed.

If required, students can contact parents from the office phone throughout the day.

The school's guidelines for student use of mobile phones and smartwatches are listed below.

STUDENTS:

Conditions of Use

1. If parents have notified the Principal and permission is granted for a student to have a mobile phone, the phone must be kept securely in a student's school bag. All communication devices brought to school are entirely at their owner's risk. St Joseph's School will not accept any responsibility for theft, loss or damage of these devices.
2. Mobile phones are always kept in the student's bag, whilst on school grounds, and must be switched off or on silent. Smartwatches must have all alerts on silent and messaging/notification alerts disabled at school. If a parent wishes for their child's device to remain secure at school, they may request via email to the Principal that the device be signed in daily at the front office and collected by the student at the end of the day.

3. Students must be off the school site, including church premises before using their communication devices.
4. Students cannot use communication devices to call home in an emergency. This is the school's duty and the administrator/teacher in charge.
5. Communication devices are not to be used to call home in the event of a mishap at school or because belongings have been forgotten. The school administration will inform parents of any events that have impacted their children.
6. Communication devices are not to be used in the classroom, playground or incursion/excursion for any of the following purposes: check text messages, access games and social media and the internet. Exceptions to this may include the use of a camera and video if permission is granted for camps and excursions.
7. Communication devices are not to be used to harass, bully, or intimidate any person. Breaches will be dealt with as per the school's Bullying and Behaviour Policy and Acceptable Use of Information and Communication Technology Policy.
- 8. Any use of mobile phones and smartwatches by a student who breaches these guidelines will lead to the teacher in charge confiscating the device. In this instance, parents will be notified, and seized communication devices will need to be collected from the Administration office by the student's parent or guardian at the end of the day. In the case of a breach of these guidelines, the Principal will decide if all privileges of having a communication device at school for future use will be terminated.**

All questions related to these guidelines are to be directed via email to the Principal.

Mrs Ros Oates



PRINCIPAL

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