



St Marys South Public School Student Use of Mobile Phones in Schools Policy

2023

St Marys South Public School

Student Use of Mobile Phones in Schools Policy and Management Plan.

Student Use of Mobile Phones in Schools

Direction and guidance on the safe and responsible use of mobile phones for students in NSW public schools.

Audience and applicability

This policy applies to all students in NSW public schools from 09/10/2023.

1. Policy statement

1.1 Students are not allowed to use mobile phones at school, including during recess and lunch.

1.2 Principals will manage individual requests from parents and/or carers and students for any exemptions to the policy.

1.3 Principals may allow students to use mobile phones in specific circumstances, such as for an educational purpose, to achieve student health and wellbeing outcomes, or as part of reasonable adjustment to enable students with specific needs to participate in education on the same basis as other students.

2. Context

2.1 Learning environments should support students to develop technological, social, and emotional competencies. This support should maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of digital environments and prepare students for life beyond school.

3. Policy Contact

Digital Learning team
devicesinschools@det.nsw.edu.au

4. Monitoring the policy

The Executive Director, Digital Learning monitors the implementation of this policy, regularly reviews its contents, and updates it as needed.

St Marys South Public School Students Use of Mobile Phones in Schools Management Plan.

Rationale and Objectives

St Marys South Public School supports the restrictions of mobile phones in accordance with the NSW Department of Education: Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools policy ([Student Use of Mobile Phones in Schools \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/primary-education/students-use-of-mobile-phones-in-schools)).

Mobile phone use in schools can impact student learning and wellbeing. Restricting mobile phone use at school aims to increase focus in classrooms, remove distractions and promote positive social interaction, while reducing the potential for online bullying.

St Marys South Public School has strong teaching and learning practices to support students in the classroom using various forms of appropriate technology, which maximises the benefits and minimises the risks of digital environments and prepare students for life beyond school. We foster a safe learning environment which supports and enhances each child's social and emotional health through our wellbeing and learning support teams.

St Marys South Public School has elected to use the following approach. All mobile phones will be handed in and stored in the school office for the full school day, including recess and lunch. This is an approved NSW Department of Education option and will limit unnecessary distractions and complement our ongoing approach to ensure every student maximises their learning and social growth in a safe and supportive environment.

Exemptions

St Marys South Public School understands there may be students who have a medical, wellbeing or learning need that will require them to access a mobile phone as defined in this plan. At St Marys South Public School each student, and their parents/carers requiring access to a mobile phone will meet with the principal to discuss their case to determine where an exemption will be applied for on behalf of a student, as well as the adjustments to any school-based practices and procedures.

Contacting students

St Marys South Public School understands there will always be emergencies when parents need to contact students or vice versa during the school day. We try to keep this to a minimum, except for emergencies, to avoid disturbing the students' learning. Parents and

carers can contact the school through the school office **02 9623 1745** and students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office if urgent.



Mobile Phone & Smartwatch Agreement 2023

Dear Families,

In line with the Department of Education mobile phone ban for all NSW public schools, students who choose to bring a mobile phone to school and/or wear a smartwatch must follow the following procedure:

- Hand their mobile phones and smartwatches to the school office for safekeeping on arrival at school.
- Collect their mobile phones and smartwatches from the school office after 3 p.m.

Parents and carers are expected to contact their children via the school office during the school day. Please make an appointment to meet with me if you have any questions about this arrangement.

I appreciate your support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Treton

Principal.

Monday, 6 March 2023.

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Mobile Phone & Smartwatch Agreement 2023

- I have read/had read to me the agreement for the students above. I understand the expectations of bringing mobile phones and smartwatches to school.
- I have read and understand the parent/carers expectation above.

Student Name: _____ Student Sign: _____

Parent/Carer Name: _____ Parent/Carer Sign: _____

Date: _____