



IRRAWANG PUBLIC SCHOOL

MOBILE PHONE AND SMART WATCH POLICY

Last Review: Term 1, 2024 Next Review: Term 1, 2025

Principal: Mrs Stacy Mathieson

Rationale:

Mobile phones and smart watches are unnecessary during school hours as a method of communicating with students given the primary school setting. There are also concerns about the misuse of mobile phones/smart watches in a school environment e.g. bullying, interruptions in class, distraction, and inappropriate photography.

Aims:

The school aims to provide a happy, safe and stimulating learning environment for all students. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that mobile phone/smart watch usage does not disrupt this learning environment. The policy seeks to clarify the responsibilities of staff and students with regard to mobile phones.

Implementation:

In general, students should not bring valuable items to school – as they can be easily lost or stolen, which is often distressing for a child. However, if a mobile phone/smart watch is required for the reasons of safety for travelling to and from school the child will be required to deliver the phone to the School Office for safekeeping until the end of the school day or show the teacher that the child's watch is in disable mode. This is done through a 'sign in, sign out' process for phones and upon any staff member request for smart watches. Whilst at the office, the school will endeavour to keep it safe however are under no obligation to replace lost, stolen or damaged phones/devices in their possession.

Parents and students are advised that in bringing mobile phones/smart watches to school, they are doing so at their own risk and must comply with this policy and the Mobile Phone/Device Code of Practice (which needs to be signed by the student and at least one parent/carer). It has always been the school's practice to pass on important messages to students throughout the day. This can be done by phoning the School Office and requesting that a message be given to the child.

No student mobile phones/Smart Watches are to be taken on ANY excursions.

All students found to be using the mobile phone/smart watch in an inappropriate manner e.g. bullying, inappropriate photography or texts, will have the phone/watch confiscated and returned to the parent. The student would also be subject to disciplinary action.

Evaluation:

This will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle and in the event of any incident which may prompt a review of the policy.



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MOBILE PHONE/SMART WATCH CODE OF PRACTICE



Return to the Front office.

In order to have a mobile phone on school site, the student and at least one parent/carer must complete this Code of Practice checklist, followed by a written request, with reasons, to the school principal.

Student Name and Class: _____ Student Signature: _____

Parent/Caregiver Name: _____ Parent/Caregiver Signature: _____

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please discuss these points with your child and tick to acknowledge you accept.

- I understand that the phone/smart watch needs to be placed in the student's bag when entering the school gates
- I understand my child needs to bring their phone, in their bag, directly to the front office, turned off, as soon as they enter the school grounds. If it is a smart watch, they either hand it in or show that it is in diable mode, which can be requested by any staff member.
- I understand the phone/watch is then politely handed to the office staff where the student will watch the office sign their phone in.
- I understand the phone/watch will be at the office, until it is collected, in an unlocked drawer.
- I understand the school takes NO responsibility for any kind of loss or damage of the phone/device at any time.
- At the end of the student's school day, I understand it is my child's responsibility to politely attend the office (with the end of day office line) and ask for the return of their phone/watch and watch while the office signs their name out.
- I understand my child will place their phone/watch in their school bag, still turned off, before they leave the office area.
- I understand my child will not turn their phone/device on until they have left the school grounds and are no longer under the duty of care of a staff member. For example, not until they are on the bus, if in bus lines.
- I understand if my child is found to have a phone/watch/device on them during school time or on any excursion, the phone will be confiscated and a consequence will occur.

Dear Parent/Carer.

On most occasions, there is **no need** for your child to have a mobile phone/watch with them.

If your child is an exception to this, please write detailed reasons as to why it is necessary for your child to have a phone/smart watch with them that needs to be handed in to the office. (This will be valid for the remainder of the school year)

Principal/Delegate from IPS approval signature _____ Date _____