

SOUTH HALLS HEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Student Mobile Phones and Connected Devices Policy

Effective 1 February 2023

Review Date 31 January 2024



My School, My Future
Our Village

Student Mobile Phones and Connected Devices Policy

Policy Statement

The Department of Education (Refer *Student Mobile Phones in Public Schools Policy, 3 February 2020*) does not permit student use of connected devices such as mobile phones and smart watches in public schools, unless for medical or teacher-directed educational purposes.

- Connected devices can be a distraction to student learning, a tool for bullying, and disruptive to the good management of the school; devices capable of recording images are potentially invasive of others' privacy. Therefore, it is recommended that connected devices (including, but not limited to mobile phones and smart watches) are not brought onto school premises by students.
- The school accepts that students may bring a connected device onto school premises to be used to make contact with parents after school.
- Any contact between a student and parent during school hours must be made through the school's administration.
- Parents who wish their child to bring a connected device such as a mobile phone or smart watch, to school, must complete the "Student Mobile Phones and Connected Devices Policy and Agreement", which acknowledges acceptance of this Policy and Conditions. Without a signed agreement, connected devices will be confiscated.
- Fitness tracking watches which do not have cameras, Wi-Fi or network connection capability are exempt from this policy.

Policy Rules

- All student mobile phones, smart watches and other connected devices must be switched off and handed in to the **FRONT OFFICE** during school hours (from the time the student arrives to the conclusion of the school day).
- A student will only be granted an exemption to this rule for the following reasons –
 - to monitor a health condition as part of a school approved documented health care plan
 - for a particular educational purpose under the direct instruction of a teacher
 - with permission of a teacher for a specified purpose
- Any device that is brought to school and used for taking photographs/video, either before or after school, will be confiscated and any audio or visual recordings made will need to be erased.
- While at school, students are the responsibility of the school and any contact with parents must be through the appropriate staff member or a member of administration, and not via a student's device.
- A student's device which is in the possession of, or being used by, another student is subject to the same conditions and consequences.
- The school does not accept responsibility for any loss, theft, or damage to connected devices.
- Once a device is confiscated it can only be collected by a parent/guardian.
- Repeated breaches of these conditions will void this agreement and result in disciplinary measures, which may include the requirement to renegotiate permission to have a connected device at school.

