

MOBILE PHONES / SMART WATCHES AND ASSOCIATED DEVICES STUDENT USE POLICY

Version: 1.1
Adopted by: Executive
Last amendment: Dec 2019
Portfolio: Wellbeing
Next Review: 2022

PURPOSE

Whilst mobile phones and other electronic devices can be useful, when used inappropriately they can be a significant distraction to learning and teaching and can cause unnecessary angst when used during the school day. Research supports that it is vitally important for students to have significant periods of time free of mobile phone use. St Augustine's College has a commitment to ensuring an environment that is safe for all, where face to face social interaction is both valued and encouraged.

SCOPE

This policy aims to provide guidelines for students and parents regarding the use of mobile phones/smart watches and associated devices by students at school or at a school event.

ST AUGUSTINE'S POLICY

If a student brings a mobile phone, smart watch or associated device to the college the requirement is:

- Mobile phones are to be switched off (or on silent) while at school and locked in lockers during school time (from first bell at 8.50am to last bell at 3.20pm)
- Smart watches need to put in 'aeroplane mode' if they are worn at school
- When not at school but at a school event, mobile phones should remain switched off or on silent, be out of sight, and in a secure location
- Air-pods, blue-tooth headphones, earbuds are to be paired/ connected only with school computers. These are only utilised in class with teacher permission. No student should have these devices on in the yard or at a school event
- Students who need to make 'important' phone calls during the day are asked to go to the College office and request assistance from the receptionists.

St Augustine's College does not accept any responsibility for the loss or damage to mobile phones, smart watches and associated devices such as air-pods, earbuds, headphones or Bluetooth speakers

Parents may contact their son or daughter by ringing the College office. A message will be delivered to the student as soon as practical. If a student is unwell, contact with parents should be made through the College office.

Exemptions to this policy may occur on some occasions such as school camps. Procedures for these events will be outlined in the associated Operoo/ excursion documents.

BREACH OF POLICY

Students found to be in breach of the College's policy on 'Mobile Phones/Smart Watches and associated devices will:

- Have their phone confiscated. The phone may be picked up by a parent or by an arrangement from the parent if he/she is unable to attend the college within 48 hours.
- Have their smart watch confiscated if it is being used for any other purpose other than to tell the time.
- Have their air pods, blue-tooth headphones, or ear buds confiscated if they are on the student in the yard or at a time when permission has not been sought from the classroom teacher.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTATION

- Procedure for breach of mobile phone & device policy
- Social Media Student Usage Policy