



**Policy:** MOBILE PHONE USAGE – Students & Parents

**Policy Area:** AUDIT AND RISK

**Date:** 2021

**Review Date:** 2023

## RATIONALE

**Mobile phones or wearable devices with messaging, Internet and Bluetooth capabilities** are part of modern society and St Thomas' Primary School accepts that some students may possess these devices.

There are times when it may be genuinely appropriate and useful for students to have access to them. However, the ever-changing mobile phone technology presents a number of challenges to the school environment. These include:

- mobile phones or wearable devices interrupting the learning of themselves and others.
- the loss and theft of mobile phones or wearable devices.
- mobile phones or wearable devices being used inappropriately (for illicit texts or photos).
- mobile phones or wearable devices being used inappropriately and unnecessarily on excursions and during the school day; and
- issues related to social status, peer pressure, socialisation and harassment.

Mobile phones and wearable devices are allowed on premises, but strict rules apply to their usage.

## PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES

### Students

Via the Front Office, St Thomas' Primary School has procedures in place for parents and students to contact each other, if the need arises. It is preferred that students do not have mobile phones at school. However, it is appreciated that, due to a variety of circumstances, mobile phones have become essential to the well-being of students, particularly for those who walk to school, ride a bike or catch a bus. When students do bring a mobile phone onto school grounds, the following policy applies:

- On arrival at school, mobile phones must be switched off and handed to the teacher to be kept in school office during the day. The student must collect the mobile phone from the teacher at the end of the school day.
- The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones or wearable devices which are brought to school and not handed in to the teacher. It is the responsibility of the student to safeguard against misplacement, loss or theft.
- Use of a mobile phone during school hours will result in the mobile being confiscated and given to the school office. Parents will be contacted, and the mobile will be returned to the child at the end of the school day at the Principal's discretion.



# ST THOMAS' PRIMARY SCHOOL

EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD

Excellence Inclusion Truth Compassion Community

- Use of mobile phones during off campus and out-of-school functions arranged by the school, including excursions, camps and retreats, will not be permitted. Arrangements are in place for communication with a staff member in the case of an emergency.

## Parents/Visitors

Parents/Visitors need to be aware that mobile phones are to be used appropriately at all times. The school takes no responsibility for lost or stolen mobile phones. The policy takes into account the use of mobile phones for speaking, photographs, text messages and all forms of use of the device.

## Student Mobile Phone & Messaging Devices Use Permission Form

I wish for my child \_\_\_\_\_ in Year \_\_\_\_\_ to have permission to bring a mobile phone to school.

Please provide a reason that a mobile phone is required at school for your child:

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I have read the school's policy on Mobile phones and agree to the principles and sanctions. I understand that the school does not accept responsibility for any theft, loss or damage of mobile phones.

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Mobile Phone Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_