



MOUNT HAWTHORN PRIMARY SCHOOL MOBILE PHONES/DEVICES POLICY

Context:

We recognise that mobile phones and digital devices are now an integral part of many young people's culture and can have considerable value, particularly in relation to individual safety. An increasing number of parents also wish to provide their children with mobile phones or wearable devices with messaging, internet and Bluetooth capabilities for not only safety but security, communication and/or emergency. This policy details the conditions under which these devices are permitted at Mount Hawthorn Primary School and includes wearable devices with messaging, internet or Bluetooth capabilities. (E.g. Digital watches and wearable fitness trackers).

Policy Statement:

The Department of Education does not permit student use of mobile phones in public schools unless for medical or teacher directed educational purposes. Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 are not permitted to have mobile phones in their possession during the school day.

Application of Policy:

This plan relates to student personal mobile electronic devices including but not limited to mobile phones and smartwatches. This strategy is to be read in conjunction with the Department of Education's Student Mobile Phones in Public Schools Policy.

On School grounds mobile phones must be handed in at the front office before school and collected at the end of the day. Smart Watches must be in 'aeroplane mode' at all times on school grounds so that phone calls and messages cannot be sent or received during the school day.

If a student has a mobile digital device visible or is seen using a smart watch (or there is evidence they have done so) on School grounds, the following procedures apply:

- Students have their phone or smart watch confiscated and handed to the Associate Principal. The device will only be returned to a parent or guardian. Failure to hand a phone to a staff member can result in a suspension. Parents are to be advised immediately if a device has been confiscated.
- Please note this also includes "taking pics" with their smart watch.

Parents wishing to contact their children for urgent matters, can do so via reception on 9338 0550. Students may go to the front office and use the school phone in the event parents are needed to be contacted. All communication between parents and students, during school hours, should occur via the school's administration.

Inappropriate Use: A student at school or on an excursion who records a staff member, other students or any incident (including fighting) will be suspended. This also includes forwarding or uploading inappropriate materials. This is consistent with the Director General's instructions to schools.

Student responsibility for the appropriate use of these personal devices at school is required at all times and must be in accordance and reflect our values and policy.