

## ROSTRATA PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENT MOBILE DEVICES IN SCHOOLS POLICY

### Policy

Students are not permitted to use internet enabled devices to communicate with others on the school premises. This is aligned with the Department of Education WA 'gate to gate' protocol in public schools and 'Off and Away All Day' messaging for mobile phones specifically, unless for medical or teacher directed educational purpose. This includes mobile phones, smart watches and any other internet-enabled device.

It is important to note that it is not a requirement at Rostrata Primary school for students to have a mobile phone or smart watch at school. Rostrata Primary School recognises that an increasing number of parents/carers who for safety, security and/or emergency purposes wish to provide their children with mobile phones and smart watches. This policy details the conditions under which mobile phones, smart watches and other internet enabled devices are permitted at Rostrata Primary School.

### Conditions of Use

- The use of mobile phones, smart watches and internet enabled devices to communicate is not permitted for all students from the time they arrive at school to the conclusion of the school day. This includes before school and at break times. Students are not permitted to have mobile phones in their possession during the school day.
- Mobile phones must be switched off during the school day and handed in for collection to the class teacher in the morning. The school does not accept responsibility for these devices becoming lost, stolen or damaged and they are brought to school at the students' own risk.
- Smart watches can be worn during the school day if communication capabilities and notification alerts have been switched off (aeroplane mode or similar). Should a student become distracted by the features of their device, it will be confiscated until the end of the school day and parents informed.
- Devices are not to be used to call or message to friends or family members during the school day. The school can be contacted should any urgent messages need to be passed on.
- Devices are not to be used for any other purpose that has not been explicitly authorised by the school. This includes taking photos or videos of themselves or others and recording audio of themselves or others.
- Devices are not to be used to harass, bully or intimidate students, staff or any other person.
- Students and parents must sign an agreement annually to bring personal mobile devices to school.

### **Exemptions and Communication**

Exemptions to this ban include where a student is required to use a mobile phone:

- to monitor a health condition as part of a school approved documented health care plan; or
- under the direct instruction of a teacher for educational purposes; or with permission of a teacher for a specified purpose (extra-curricular school run clubs and events).

Rostrata Primary School has duty of care for all students when they are attending school. In emergencies, where students need to get in contact with parents/carers, students are to notify the appropriate school staff. If parents/carers need to contact their children, they are asked to contact the school directly.

The use of mobile phones and smart devices at events or sessions held outside school hours on school grounds is governed by the relevant third party provider holding duty of care for the student e.g OSH Club and other third parties.

### **Breaches of this Policy**

- Breaches of this policy will be managed in accordance with the *School Behaviour Management Policy and Procedures* and further consequences may apply for repeated breaches of the policy.
- Parents will be notified should any breach of the policy occur.

#### **Further Guidance**

For the purposes of this policy, 'mobile phones, smart watches and internet-enabled devices' includes smart watches, tablets, wearable items and any associated listening accessories, such as, but not limited to, headphones and ear buds.

**Policy Review**  
**February 2024**