

26 September 2023

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL PERSONAL SMART DEVICE POLICY

PURPOSE

This agreement informs families and students of our expectations regarding the need for and use of personal smart devices at St Joseph's School. This outlines the agreement required of our families and the expected behaviours the school has of students regarding the use of personal smart devices during school hours, from the time they arrive at school to the time they depart.

RATIONALE

St Joseph's School provides digital devices for learning with high levels of cyber security. This achieves equitable access to digital resources and removes the need for personal smart devices to be brought to school.

The school supports the rights of all community members to access safe and inclusive learning environments, including digital and online environments.

The school exercises the rights and responsibilities of supporting students to focus on their social and academic development with minimal distractions from personal online interactions. It also protects students from potentially harmful social interaction during the school day.

The school exercises the rights and responsibilities of staff to focus their resources on learning, teaching, and wellbeing and not on having to spend time managing personal device usage and responding to inappropriate use.

St Joseph's School has communication protocols for families and students to communicate during the day via the established school channels.

DEFINITION

A smart device that this agreement covers is a personally owned device that operates in an interactive and autonomous manner performing actions such as

- taking and sending photos
- recording voice and videos
- sending and receiving messages
- making phone calls; and
- accessing the internet using providers beyond the school's network and cyber security measures

An example of this is a cellular digital watch or phone that can connect to other devices or networks via a variety of wireless protocols including but not limited to Bluetooth, Zigbee, NFC - Near Field Comms, Wi-Fi, LiFi - Light transmitted, 5G.

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A wearable device that is not connected to a digital network and is solely for the purpose of telling the time or health tracking is permitted. e.g. Fitbit

PROTOCOL

Personal Smart devices are **not permitted to be worn or used at school from when students arrive until they depart**. They pose a safety threat to students, are a distraction to social and academic learning and have the capacity to breach academic integrity and privacy protocols. They also increase the opportunity for psychological harm, having a negative impact on student wellbeing.

As a last resort, should a device need to be brought or worn to and from school, students must hand it to their teacher upon arrival (switched off), who will store it during the day. The device can be collected after the school day and is the student's responsibility.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- St Joseph's School adopts balanced and purposeful use of digital technology to prepare students to be skilled and move confidently into their futures.
- Personal and cybersafety are a high priority.
- The use of digital technology at St Joseph's School is underpinned by responsible, respectful, and ethical behaviour.
- Face-to-face connections without the use of digital technology are integral to a balanced and integrated community culture.
- Family contact with their child during the day must be through the school office as staff have a responsibility for the welfare of each student.
- St Joseph's School reserves the right and has a responsibility to capture, store and review all online activity and content created or accessed whilst on school property.
- Smart devices are brought to school by students at their own risk, and no responsibility will be taken for any loss or damage to smart devices whilst on school grounds.
- The school recommends that devices are not brought to school.
- The school understands that some families need to provide their children with a device.
- This policy is supported by research eg. [Smartphones, Social Media Use and Youth Mental Health](#)

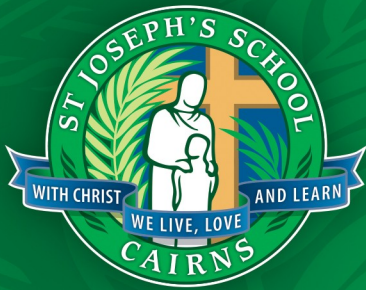
CONSEQUENCES

A breach of this policy will be

- subject to consequences according to the St Joseph's School Wide Positive Relationships Framework.
- regarded a major incident and recorded it as such in the school incident register.

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Inappropriate material will be supplied to the Police or other relevant agencies according to the Catholic Education Student Protection Policy.

A breach of this policy may result in

- a verbal reminder.
- the confiscation of the device.
- contact made to the student's family.
- a record made in the school's incident register (Engage).

Devices may be taken or accessed where there is a reasonable belief that:

- there has been or may be a breach of the school rules; or,
- there may be a threat of harm to a student or others or system security.

PARENT AGREEMENT

I have read and acknowledged the agreement and support the school's role in providing all children a safe and inclusive learning environment.

I have discussed the St Joseph's School Personal Smart Device Agreement with my child and agree to support the protocols of the school.

We understand and agree to the following:

- that a personal smart device is as described above
- that I will ensure that my child will NOT wear a personal digital smart device during the school day
- should my child need to wear a personal digital smart device to school it will be handed to the teachers for the duration of the school day and collected at the end of the day
- the importance of respecting and observing all laws pertaining to child safety, copyright, intellectual property, and privacy; and
- any breach of this policy or failure to meet these responsibilities will be regarded as a serious matter and consequences will apply and may include but not limited to the confiscation of the device.

Kind regards

Elisha-Vi Raso
School Board Executive Director

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