



ST MATTHEWS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

'With Jesus Christ as our inspiration and guide, we are called to provide high-quality Catholic education in the Diocese of Bathurst'

MOBILE PHONES AND SMARTWATCH POLICY

Our Vision

"As a K-12 school community we believe that all can grow in their learning at high levels in an environment which celebrates the truth of our faith in Jesus, excellence in education and a commitment to the wellbeing of all."

Our Mission

Our mission is to collectively work towards our vision by placing Jesus at the centre of all that we do and embracing the values of St Matthews Way. Like St Matthew our school patron, we are called to be more, by living the truth of these values to the best of our ability.

What We Value

- **Excellence** - *Developing confident and capable learners through collaborative, dynamic and transformational learning experiences*
- **Courage** - *Building skills in persistence and resilience to embrace challenges*
- **Compassion** - *Providing support and enhancing the wellbeing of others and ourselves*
- **Respect** - *Fostering an appreciation for the goodness, value and rights of everyone and everything, through our thoughts, words and actions*
- **Service** - *Contributing to society by using our gifts and experiences for the betterment of others*

We are therefore committed to:

- a safe, inclusive and professional learning environment, and
- just and right relationships that recognise and respect the dignity of each individual.

2. Rationale

- Mobile phones are important modern day communication tools, essential in providing a safe and effective school environment. The School understands that they can be considered by the community to be an essential communication tool. However, they can easily be improperly used, lost or damaged and must therefore be effectively managed.

3. Aims

- To utilise the benefits of mobile phones whilst managing the problems they can potentially cause.

4. Definitions

- Smartwatch: a mobile device designed to be worn on the wrist that can do any of the following: receive and/or send messages, receive and/or make phone calls, have access to the internet
- Mobile phone: a telephone with access to a cellular radio system so it can be used over a wide area, without a physical connection to a network.

5. Implementation

All Students:

- Mobile phone rules for school excursions will be explained to students and families before the excursion.
- If students use mobile phones or smartwatches outside of this policy, the device will be turned off, confiscated, and stored at Student Services. Students can collect it at the end of the school day. For repeat offences, a parent or carer must collect the device. If a significant safety concern is raised, Executive or Wellbeing staff may use their discretion to return the phone and apply an alternative consequence, such as arranging a parent meeting or setting a future confiscation.
- Students who use their mobile phones to organise a parent pickup must hand the phone in to Student Services the following school day.
- Further consequences may apply for repeat or serial misuse of mobile phones or smartwatches.
- The school is not responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen mobile phones or smartwatches.
- Students who bring mobile phones or smartwatches to school do so at their own risk.

Primary Students:

- Students in Primary are not to bring personal mobile phones or smartwatches to school unless permission from the Executive Principal has been successfully sought by parents who have outlined the health, safety or personal reasons that justify the student being in possession of a mobile phone or smartwatch. In this instance, unless instructed otherwise, mobile phones and/or smartwatches should be handed in to Student Services at the start of the day and collected at the end of the day.

Secondary Students:

- For repeat offences, a parent or carer must collect the device. If a significant safety concern is raised, Executive or Wellbeing staff may use their discretion to return the phone and apply an alternative consequence, such as arranging a parent meeting or setting a future confiscation.

- Mobile phones and smartwatches must be stored safely at all times in students lockers. They are not to be kept in class or carried by a student unless the School gives explicit permission.
- Mobile phones may only be used in lessons when approved by both the relevant KLA Coordinator and the Head of Campus or Executive Principal. In these cases, the teacher authorising their use is responsible for ensuring they are used appropriately.
- Mobile devices are not permitted to be used for purchasing items at the canteen.
- Students may use their own mobile phones only in the designated 'Phone Zone' during Break 1 and Break 2. Each phone may only be used by the student who owns it (one student per phone). Use is limited to organising after-school pickups, commitments, or changes to routine.
- After 3:10 pm, students may use their mobile phones while leaving the School or waiting in bus lines. All use at this time must remain appropriate and in line with the School's Codes of Conduct.

5. Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the School's three-year review cycle.

Ratified by the School Leadership Team.

Date of Implementation	MARCH 2015
Date of Last Review	September 2025
Date for Next Review	September 2028