



In 2019, the State Government announced a new Student Mobile Phones in Public Schools policy to take effect from the start of Term 1, 2020. This policy requires all public schools to implement a ban on the use of mobile phones for all students from the time they arrive at school to the end of the school day. This extends to the use of smart watches which need to be on aeroplane mode during this period.

At Mindarie Primary School we are aware of some of the safety issues related to our modern society and that some parents allow their children to carry a mobile phone for after-school arrangements. However, the school has a duty of care to ensure that the school's learning program is in no way interrupted.

Mindarie Primary School accepts that parents provide their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.

This Policy is designed to ensure that potential issues can be identified and addressed; ensuring the benefits that mobile phones and smart watches provide (such as safety) can continue to be enjoyed by our students.

Parents should discuss the following student responsibilities with their child and complete the mobile phone usage agreement form if they want their child to bring a mobile phone to school.

Student Responsibilities and Awareness's

- The school is in no way responsible for the loss, theft or damage to a mobile phone or electronic device whilst it is on the school premises.
- That the mobile phone is switched off and stored into students bags when entering the school grounds and only removed and turned on at the completion of the school day.
- That any smart watches are set to flight mode or equivalent setting when entering the school grounds and only turned on at the completion of the school day.
- That students or parents wishing to contact each other during school hours should use the normal school procedure (i.e. through the office or classroom teacher).
- Any student found to be involved in recording, distributing or uploading inappropriate images or videos of students, parents or staff, on school premises or sending threatening messages will face disciplinary action, including suspension. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, if action taken by the school is deemed ineffective, as with all such incidents, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the police.
- Students understand the conditions and following consequences associated with bringing their mobile phone to school.
 - That a student breaching these guidelines for the first time will have the mobile phone or electronic device confiscated and this phone will be stored in the Principals office for the remainder of that day.
 - That for a second breach of the guidelines, the parents will be contacted by the school administration and notified of the breach.
 - That for a third breach, the parents will be contacted and notified that the student may lose good standing with the school.