

Tuggerah Public School



Mobile Phone & Smart Watch

Last amended: January 2019

Introduction:

There is a range of technology available today including mobile telephones, smart watches, digital cameras, fitbit and other similar devices. When these technologies are misused by students they can be very disruptive to students' welfare, socialisation and in some cases cause various levels of harm.

Tuggerah Public School acknowledges that students may need to be in possession of a mobile telephone or smart watch at school for reasons relating to their safety in travelling to and from school.

*Where students bring a mobile telephone, smart watch, fitbit and similar devices to school **with photographic and film capabilities they will need to:***

Student Responsibilities:

- Take the mobile phone/ smart watch device to the front office and hand it to the administration staff who will lock the device away for the duration of the school day. Students will then report to the office at the end of the day to retrieve their mobile phone/ smart watch device.
- Take full responsibility for these devices. The school or staff will not be responsible for their loss, theft or damage nor for investigating loss or damage. Students who bring them to school do so at their own risk.
- Use their mobile phone and smart watch in a way which reflects the core values being taught in schools, including the values of respect, responsibility, resilience and excellence.
- Not use mobile telephones or other devices to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school. Such activities may incur disciplinary action including suspension.
- Not use mobile telephones, smart watches or other devices to threaten, bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the telephone or smart watch or for any illegal activity. Such activities may incur disciplinary action including suspension.

Improper use of mobile telephones or other electronic devices may result in:

- Appropriate disciplinary measure as determined by the school's discipline policy.
- Confiscation of the mobile telephone, smart watch or other electronic device until such time as their parent or caregiver is able to attend school to collect the device.
- Other disciplinary action in cases where students have bullied or threatened or harassed other students or staff via the mobile telephone, smart watch or other personal communication



device or where the device has been used to take photographs or display inappropriate material.

Emergency Contact:

- If a parent or caregiver needs to contact a student at school as a result of an emergency, they are required to call the school's main office and a message will be sent to the student.
- If a student needs to make emergency contact with anyone they must do so through the school's main office.
- Students are expected to continue the immediate reporting of incidents such as accident/illness or behaviour to teaching staff during school hours for their action.

*** Introduction and Reinforcement of Mobile Phone/Device Policy ***

- Teachers will discuss this policy with classes upon ratification.
- The community will be made aware of the policy via the School Website.
- The policy will be published in the handbook given to all new enrolments.

