

At West Pennant Hills Public School, we aim to empower our students to engage and learn with confidence, courage and empathy by providing an education that inspires them to become global citizens. For the purposes of this policy, 'communication devices' refer to mobile phones and smart watches.

The school discourages students from bringing mobile phones and smart watches to school. These communication devices cause disruption in classrooms and the playground, and can be used inappropriately to access social media and take photos without permission. This can cause distress and breach the privacy of others.

Parents are able to contact their children by ringing the school phone number 9484 7400. If necessary, students can contact parents from the office phone.

If a parent feels it is necessary for their child to bring a communication device (smart phone or smart watch) to school, then the rules for student use of smart phones and smart watches in the school are listed below:

1. Devices that are brought to and kept at school are used entirely at their owner's risk. West Pennant Hills Public School cannot accept any responsibility for theft, loss or damage of these devices. Students and parents should also recognise that smart devices are a highly prized target for theft.
2. Smart phones and watches are to be kept in the student's bag at all times including; before school, recess and lunchtime, and must be switched off or on silent.
3. Smart phone and watch communication and notification alerts, and location must be switched off.
4. Smart phones and watches are not to be used to call home in an emergency. This is the duty of the school and the administrator/teacher in charge.
5. Smart phones and watches are not to be used to call home in the event of a mishap at school or because belongings have been forgotten unless at a teacher's discretion and under the supervision of the teacher – in the main, these events are to be dealt with by the school. Breaches will be dealt with as per the school's Wellbeing and Discipline Policy.
6. Smart phones and watches are not to be used in the classroom, playground or incursion/excursion for any of the following purposes: make phone calls, check text messages, access games, use the internet, view images, use camera or videos.
7. Smart phones and watches are not to be used to harass, bully or intimidate students or staff. Breaches will be dealt with as per the school's Wellbeing and Discipline Policy.

Any use of smart phones and smart watches by a student, that is in breach of these rules, will lead to the confiscation of the device. In this instance, parents will be notified and confiscated devices will need to be collected from the Administration office by the student's parent or guardian at the end of the day.