

Rationale

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 calling 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 (mobile phone or smart watch) to school, then the rules for student use of mobile phones and smart watches in the school are listed below:

- Devices 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 mobile devices are a highly prized target for theft.
- Mobile phones 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.
- Smart phone, smart watch, notification alerts and location must be switched off.
- 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.
- 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. Parents will be informed of any events that have impacted on their child.
- Phones and watches are not to be used in the classroom, playground or incursion/excursion for any of the following purposes; check text messages, access games, the internet, images, the camera or videos.
- 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 Discipline Policy.

Any use of mobile 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.