

Mobile Devices in School Policy

RATIONALE

With the increasing use of mobile electronic devices, including mobile phones, smart watches, tablets (such as iPads), digital and video cameras, and listening devices such as headphones and earbuds, it is important that all members of the school community understand the expectations for appropriate use within the school environment.

For the purposes of this policy, the term device refers to any mobile electronic device capable of one or more of the following functions:

- Sending or receiving text messages
- Making or receiving phone calls
- Sending or receiving emails
- Taking photographs
- Recording video or audio

This includes, but is not limited to, mobile phones, smart watches, tablets, digital cameras, and similar electronic devices.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect the privacy and safety of students and staff.
- Minimise distractions to learning and teaching.
- Promote student health and wellbeing.
- Encourage active engagement in learning and social interactions.
- Reduce the risk of external issues, including online conflicts and inappropriate communications, impacting the school environment.

The expectations outlined in this policy apply to all members of the Kinross Primary School community while on school grounds or participating in school-related activities. Staff, students, and families are expected to adhere to these requirements and support the responsible use of technology. This policy has been endorsed by the Kinross Primary School Board.

DEVICES AT SCHOOL

Whilst we understand the need for some students to have a mobile device, Kinross Primary School strongly discourages students from bringing a mobile device to school unless there is a genuine and compelling need. In the event of an emergency, students have access to a telephone through the school administration office. Parents can also call the school in 9233 6800 to leave a message for their child.

Students who are required to bring a personal device to school must comply with the following:

- Personal devices must be switched off and kept in the student's school bag upon entering the school grounds.
- Personal devices must be handed to the classroom teacher at the beginning of the school day.

- Personal devices will be securely stored by the teacher during the school day.
- Personal devices will be returned to students at the end of the school day.
- Once returned, personal devices must be placed back into the student's school bag and remain there until the student has left the school grounds.
- Students must not access or use personal devices on school grounds at any time.
- Smart watches must be placed in airplane mode upon entering the school grounds and must not be used for communication or other functions during the school day.
- Any student who is seen using their smartwatch for reasons other than telling the time, including communicating with others, sending or receiving messages, making calls, recording audio or video, taking photographs, accessing the internet, or using apps, will be required to hand their watch to their teacher.
- Students must not use personal devices or smart watches to photograph, video record, audio record, or otherwise capture images or information at school under any circumstances.
- Failure to comply with this policy may result in action being taken in accordance with the Kinross Primary School Behaviour Policy.

Please note: Kinross Primary School accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft, damage, or misuse of personal devices, including mobile phones and smart watches, brought onto school grounds. Students and families bring such devices to school at their own risk.

EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions can be granted for students who have approval from the principal to use a device to monitor health conditions, or where teachers give students permission to use mobile phones for a specific purpose. This is arranged on a case-by-case basis and should be discussed with the principal.