



Bethany Christian School Mobile and Smart Watch/Device Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe and focused learning environment at Bethany Christian School. The policy outlines the procedures and guidelines for the use of mobile phones, smartwatches, and other smart devices by students and staff. This policy aims to minimize distractions, prevent misuse, and promote cyber safety in accordance with legal and government guidelines.

Scope

This policy applies to all students and staff at Bethany Christian School. It covers the possession, use, and management of mobile phones, smartwatches, and other smart devices during school hours and school-related activities.

Definitions

- **Mobile Phone:** A portable telephone that can make and receive calls over a radio frequency link while the user is moving within a telephone service area. Mobile phones may also support a variety of other services such as text messaging, email, internet access, and multimedia functions.
- **Smartwatch:** A wearable device in the form of a wristwatch that offers advanced capabilities beyond timekeeping, often including features such as mobile apps, a mobile operating system, and Bluetooth/Wi-Fi connectivity. It can provide notifications, fitness tracking, and other functionalities.
- **Smart Device:** An electronic device, generally connected to other devices or networks via different wireless protocols, that can operate to some extent interactively and autonomously. Examples include tablets, e-readers, and portable media players.

Policy Statement

Bethany Christian School recognizes the importance of technology in today's society. However, to ensure the safety and well-being of our students and to maintain professional standards among staff, the use of mobile phones, smartwatches, and other smart devices is restricted during school hours.

Guidelines for Students

1. **Permission and Approval**
 - Students must obtain written permission in their diary from their parents or guardians to bring a mobile phone, smartwatch, or other smart devices to school.
 - All smart devices must be approved by the school administration before being brought onto school premises.
2. **Device Registration**
 - Approved devices must be registered with the school administration via the library.
 - Registration details must include the student's name, class, device type, and serial number.
3. **Device Management**



- All mobile phones, smartwatches, and other smart devices must be handed in to the library office at the start of the school day.
- Devices will be securely stored and can be collected from the library office at the end of the school day.
- 4. Usage Restrictions
 - Devices are not to be used during school hours, including recess and lunch breaks.
 - Emergency communication can be facilitated through the school office.
- 5. Cyber Safety
 - Students and parents must agree to abide by the school's cyber safety guidelines, as outlined in the Australian Government's eSafety Commissioner resources and the Department of Education's cyber safety policies.
 - Any misuse of devices, including cyberbullying or accessing inappropriate content, will result in disciplinary action.
- 6. Device Liability
 - The school will not be responsible for any loss, theft, or damage to devices brought to school. It is the responsibility of the student and their parents/guardians to ensure the security and care of the device.

Guidelines for Staff

1. Professional Use
 - Staff members are permitted to use mobile phones and smart devices for professional purposes, such as yard duties, excursions, and emergencies.
 - Devices should be used responsibly and should not disrupt the learning environment or professional duties.
2. Usage Restrictions
 - Personal use of mobile phones and smart devices during teaching or supervision times should be minimized.
 - Staff should model appropriate device usage and ensure that their devices do not become a distraction to themselves or others.
3. Cyber Safety
 - Staff must adhere to the school's cyber safety policies and guidelines, ensuring professional conduct in all digital communications and activities.
 - Any misuse of devices by staff members will be addressed in accordance with the school's staff disciplinary procedures.
4. Device Liability
 - The school will not be responsible for any loss, theft, or damage to devices used by staff during school hours or school-related activities. It is the responsibility of the staff member to ensure the security and care of their device.

Legal and Government References

- eSafety Commissioner: This policy aligns with the guidelines provided by the Australian eSafety Commissioner, which aims to promote safer online environments for children and young people.



- Department of Education Cyber Safety Policies: The school's policy is consistent with the Department of Education's policies on cyber safety and the responsible use of technology in schools.

Consequences for Policy Breach

Students

- First Offense: The student will receive a warning, and the device will be confiscated for the day. Parents will be notified.
- Second Offense: The device will be confiscated and a meeting with the parents will be scheduled.
- Third Offense: The student will lose the privilege of bringing a device to school for the remainder of the term, and further disciplinary action may be taken.

Staff

- First Offense: The staff member will receive a verbal warning.
- Second Offense: A written warning will be issued, and a meeting with the school administration will be scheduled.
- Third Offense: Further disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the school's staff disciplinary procedures.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or as needed to ensure it remains effective and relevant to the needs of the school community.

Approval

This policy has been approved by the Bethany Christian School administration and is effective as of [Insert Date].

[Children and Young People \(Safety\) Act 2017](#)

[Child Safety \(Prohibited Persons\) Act 2016](#)

[Statutes Amendment \(Child Sexual Abuse\) Act 2021](#)

[Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935 \(SA\)](#)

[Equal Opportunity Act 1984 \(SA\)](#)

[Sex Discrimination Act 1984 \(Cth\)](#)

[Teacher Registration and Standards Act 2004 \(SA\)](#)

[Education and Early Childhood Services \(Registration and Standards\) Act 2011 \(SA\)](#)

[Education Act 2013 \(Cth\)](#)

[Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 \(including National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018\)](#)

[Disability Discrimination Act 1992 \(Cth\)](#)

Relevant Conventions

[National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#)

[The United Nations Conventions of the Rights of the Child](#)



Relevant Standards and Frameworks

- [Australian Student Wellbeing Framework](#)
- [National Quality Framework](#)
- [Safe & Supported: The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021 - 2031](#)
- [Child Safe Organisations National Principles](#)
- [Disability Standards for Education 2005](#)
- [Homestay Standards](#)

Relevant Cross Sector Guidelines

- [Protective Practices for staff in their interactions with children and young people](#)
- [Managing allegations of sexual misconduct in SA education and care settings](#)
- [Responding to problem sexual behaviour in children and young people](#)
- [Suicide Postvention Guidelines](#)

Policy Officer (name)	Policy Officer (Position Title)
Authorised by (name):	Authorisation date:
Authorised by (position title):	Review date:
In consultation with:	Approved: Yes/No