



**ST THOMAS'  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
*Educating the whole child*

# MOBILE PHONE & WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY PROCEDURE

Effective from:  
**JANUARY 2024**

## RATIONALE

Mobile phones or wearable devices with messaging, Internet and Bluetooth capabilities are part of modern society and St Thomas' Primary School accepts that some students may possess these devices.

There are times when it may be genuinely appropriate and useful for students to have access to them. However, the ever-changing mobile phone technology presents a number of challenges to the school environment. These include:

- mobile phones or wearable devices interrupting the learning of themselves and others;
- the loss and theft of mobile phones or wearable devices;
- mobile phones or wearable devices being used inappropriately (for illicit texts or photos);
- mobile phones or wearable devices being used inappropriately and unnecessarily on excursions and during the school day;
- issues related to social status, peer pressure, socialisation and harassment.

Mobile phones and wearable devices are allowed on premises, but strict rules apply to their usage. For the purposes of this policy, 'mobile phones' includes smart watches, other electronic communication devices, and associated listening accessories, such as, but not limited to, headphones and ear buds.

## PRINCIPLES

1. Whether through digital or face-to-face interactions, the school aims to provide a happy and safe environment for all students, staff and parents;
2. Technology devices can enhance learning, however caution must be exercised with devices not endorsed as part of the school's 1:1 approved technology devices;
3. The roles of students, staff and parents with regard to mobile phones and wearable technology devices for student need clear guidelines.

## SCOPE

This policy informs all students, parents, and guardians of St Thomas' Primary School, Claremont.

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## PROCEDURES

### STUDENTS

Via the School Office, St Thomas' Primary School has procedures in place for parents and students to contact each other, if the need arises. It is preferred that students do not have mobile phones at school. However, it is appreciated that, due to a variety of circumstances, mobile phones have become essential to the well-being of students, particularly for those who walk to school, ride a bike or use public transport. When students bring a mobile phone onto school grounds, the following procedures apply:

- On arrival at school, mobile phones must be switched off and handed to the teacher to be kept in the school office during the day. The student must collect the mobile phone from the teacher at the end of the school day;
- The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones or wearable devices which are brought to school and not handed in to the teacher. It is the responsibility of the student to safeguard against misplacement, loss or theft;
- Use of a mobile phone during school hours will result in the mobile being confiscated and given to the school office. Parents will be contacted, and the mobile will be returned to the child at the end of the school day at the Principal's discretion;
- Use of mobile phones during off campus and out-of-school functions arranged by the school, including excursions, camps and retreats, will not be permitted. Arrangements are in place for communication with a staff member in the case of an emergency;
- Students will require a completed permission form from their parents giving permission for them to bring a phone to school.

### PARENTS & VISITORS

Parents and visitors need to be aware that mobile phones are to be used appropriately at all times. The school takes no responsibility for lost or stolen mobile phones. The procedure takes into account the use of mobile phones for speaking, photographs, text messages and all forms of use of the device.

1. Students will not be able to access their phone during school hours;
2. Parents are required to contact the front office if there are any changes to pick up times for their child on any given day.

## REVIEW

Approved by	Originally Released	Next Review
<b>NATALIA THOMSON</b> Principal	<b>January, 2021</b> (reviewed 2022, 2024)	<b>January, 2027</b>

**APPENDIX 1: STUDENT MOBILE PHONE & MESSAGING DEVICES USE PERMISSION FORM**

I wish for my child \_\_\_\_\_ in Year \_\_\_\_ to have permission to bring a mobile phone or wearable technology device to school.

Please provide a reason that a mobile phone is required at school for your child:

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I have read the school's procedure 'Mobile phones and wearable technology' and agree to the principles and procedures. I understand that the school does not accept responsibility for any theft, loss or damage of mobile phones.

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_