

# Marrickville Public School

*Servicing the Marrickville Community for over 125 years*



Chapel Street  
Marrickville 2204

Phone: 9560 2208  
Fax: 9560 5134

Email: [marrickvil-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:marrickvil-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Web: [www.marrickvil-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.marrickvil-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

## Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Procedures

### Rationale

The widespread ownership of mobile phones among young people requires that the staff, students and parents at Marrickville PS take steps to ensure mobile phones and or smart watches are used in a responsible and safe manner. It is essential that:

- A safe learning environment is maintained at all times for teachers and students.
- Any potential risk to safety and wellbeing of students and staff by inappropriate use of mobile phones and or smart watches can be identified and addressed.
- All stakeholders have a clear understanding of school guidelines and personal responsibilities related to the appropriate use of mobile phones.

Mobile phones or smart watches with cellular access may provide students travelling to and from schools or institutes with a degree of security. Students bring mobile phones and smart watches to school at their own risk. The school will not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to mobile phones or smart watches.

Marrickville Public School accepts that some parents give their children mobile phones or smart watches to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. However, mobile cellular devices have the capacity to have a negative impact on the learning environment and when used inappropriately can put the safety and wellbeing of students at risk.

### Student Expectations

- All students are to be made aware of the unacceptable uses of mobile phones and or smart watches to ensure they have a clear understanding of what is and is not appropriate.
- Mobile phones should be turned off as soon as students enter the school grounds.
- Smart watches with cellular abilities should have this feature turned off while on the school grounds.
- All mobile phones and smart watches are to be handed in at the office for safe-keeping as soon as a student arrives at school.
- Students are not permitted to take mobile phones or smart watches with cellular access on excursions, school camps or when attending a school organised event. Staff will not be responsible for the security of phones or smart watches if this rule is breached. If staff are aware the rule has been breached, the device will be confiscated.
- Students are not to use their mobile phone or smart watch to contact their parents regarding illness or other concerns whilst at school and instead must inform a teacher.

### Staff Expectations

- During teaching time, staff meetings and while on playground duty mobile phones should be put on 'silent', however may be used for educational purposes, school related business or an emergency.
- Staff may use mobile phones during designated break times.
- Staff may use mobile phones during administration meetings to update calendars.

### **Parents and Community Members Expectations**

- At all official school functions, during meetings or when assisting in classrooms mobile phones should be put on 'silent'.
- Parents/carers are not to contact students via their phone or watch during school hours and must contact the school if they require communication to their child.
- Parents/carers are to take responsibility for their child's use of digital devices and online services used at home. The school will not manage issues that occur outside of school hours.

### **Inappropriate use of a mobile phone at ANY TIME is as follows:**

- bullying, intimidating or otherwise harassing others through; any social media or SMS or text messaging or through photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the phone or watch.
- recording or filming of conversations, including classroom lessons, without the knowledge and express permission of the teacher and the students and parents/guardians of any others involved.
- filming inappropriate behaviour involving students that occur at school, during school or while on the way to or from school. Any such incidents are not to be recorded and must be reported to the school immediately.

### **In addition, inappropriate use of a mobile phone during school hours 9.00am and 3.25pm, all of these apply:**

- using it in a way that disrupts or is likely to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school.
- downloading or otherwise accessing inappropriate material on the internet such as pornographic, adults only or other offensive material.
- using it in a way that threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or wellbeing of any person using it in a way that breaches any law.

If students use mobile phones or smart watches inappropriately the principal has the right to take action and search the content of the mobile phone or smart watch.

Depending on the circumstances, action can include:

- confiscating mobile phone or smart watches from individual students.
- Applying student disciplinary action in line with the school discipline policy which may include a formal caution or suspension.
- Reporting the matter to the police.

### **Implementation of this Policy**

- Teachers will discuss this policy with students.
- The MPS community will be made aware of this policy through the weekly newsletter and at P&C meetings.

January 2022

To be reviewed January 2024