

# GREEN VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL

*We Aim High*

## ACCEPTABLE STUDENT USE OF MOBILE PHONE POLICY

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### 1. RATIONALE

- Mobile phones have become an important and invaluable part of our modern lifestyle. The school understands there are times when possession of a mobile phone can provide a sense of safety and security while travelling to and from school, as well as enabling urgent calls or contact for parents. Given the primary school setting we should consider their use in this context.
- This policy is to be read in conjunction with Legal Issues Bulletin No 35.
- There are current concerns about the use of mobile phones to bully others and all students should be able to come to school feeling safe and secure.

### 2. PURPOSE

- The school aims to provide a happy, safe and stimulating learning environment for all students. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that mobile phone usage does not disrupt this learning environment.
- To clarify the responsibilities of students with regard to mobile phones.

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION

- In general, students should not bring valuable items to school – as they can be easily lost or stolen, which is often distressful for a primary age child.
- If a mobile phone or smart watch is required for reasons of specific safety or urgency then parents should negotiate with the school on how best to manage this. Usually this will involve parents notifying the school in writing that their child will be bringing a mobile phone to school for safety reasons. This will only be for urgent situations and the student will be responsible for the phone when travelling to and from school.
- Students bring mobile phones to school at their own risk.
- Students who bring mobile phones or smart watches to school **with** prior arrangement and written permission will be expected to turn the phone off, leave it at the office before school and collect it after school. They will be required to sign the phone in and out at the office.
- Students who bring their mobile phones or smart watches to school **without** prior arrangement and written permission will be expected to turn the phone off, leave it at the office and collect it after school along with a written permission note to be taken home to parents.
- It has always been the school's practice to pass on important messages to students throughout the day. This can be done by phoning the office and requesting that the

message be given to the child (in most circumstances there will be no need for students to have a mobile phone).

- No mobile phones or smart watches are to be taken on excursions.
- Mobile Phones or smart watches may be taken on overnight camps for 'camera' use only. If the mobile phone is the only means as a camera device, the SIM card will be requested to be taken out prior to the camp.
- Any student found using a mobile phone or smart watch in an inappropriate manner or in contradiction to this policy (bullying, harassing, intimidating) will have the phone confiscated and returned to the parent. The student would also be subject to the appropriate discipline code.
- Use of a phone or other smart device that could be in breach of the law may mean that the phone is handed to NSW Police.

#### **4. EVALUATION**

- This policy will be reviewed in 2025 or earlier if there is any change to use of technology.

#### **5. RESOURCES**

- Permission note for students to bring a mobile phone to school for safety reasons (to use before and after school when travelling).
- Register sheet to sign in and out at the front office.