



PHONES AWAY FOR THE DAY

Wednesday, 27 March

Information for Parents and Caregivers



**St Paul's
School**

Why is this happening?

This approach is in line with best practice educational research and is being implemented to:

- reduce distractions and increase engagement with classroom teaching
- increase face-to-face interactions between students
- promote student health and wellbeing
- reduce the potential for student exposure to negative impacts of the digital world, such as cyberbullying.



Student use of mobile phones and wearable devices

- If students choose to bring their phone to school, they must **switch it off and keep it in their locker** during school hours.
- Smartwatches can be worn, however **notifications must be switched off.**
- This includes during lessons and break times, as well as other school activities.



How will this work?

Every morning students will be required to **switch their phone off and put it in their locker** prior to the commencement of Tutor group at 8:35am.

Phones will stay in student lockers throughout the day and **students are not allowed to send or receive calls or messages** at any point during the school day.

Students are responsible for their phone during the school day.

At the **end of the school day** and when leaving the school grounds, students can remove their phone from their locker and **switch it on.**

Common questions

What if I need to contact my child in an emergency situation?

A call can be made directly to the school office on 3261 1388.

What if my child needs to access their phone for medical reasons?

Exemptions will be considered for these reasons on a case-by-case basis. Please email the head of wellbeing Ms Erica Trudgian to request a medical exemption.

Common questions

My child's phone does not connect to the internet, will they be allowed to use their phone?

No. All phones and wearable devices that have the ability to connect to telecommunication networks or the internet are included.

Who is responsible for my child's phone during the day?

If your child chooses to bring a phone to school, they will be responsible for the phone during the school day.

Common questions

What about school excursions and camps?

This also applies to school activities such as representative sport, camps and excursions, unless an exception is made by the Principal. If this is the case, information will be included in the excursion permission form.

How does my student pay for items at the tuckshop?

- Students can pay with their ID card (if funds are pre-loaded via Flexischools)
- Students can pay with a physical debit card or pre-loaded payment card
- Students can pay with cash

How is this policy being enforced?

- Providing verbal and visual reminders.
- Temporary removal of device (in secure lockers).
- Parent/caregiver contact.
- Lunch or afterschool detention – may include enrolment in an eSmartprogram.
- Parent/caregiver collection of device/s impacts of the digital world, such as cyberbullying.



How can I help?

- Have conversations about the mobile phone and wearable device strategy with your child.
- Support implementation of our school's policy, by using the school phone number to contact your child during the day.
- Encourage your child to report to a staff member in the first instance if they become unwell or experience an issue during the school day.
- Raise any questions or concerns with school staff.



Support and resources

- [eSafety Parents](#) – learn about online safety challenges, and how to help your child have positive online experiences. Some helpful pages include:
 - [Good habits start young](#)
 - [Is your child ready for a phone or social media](#)
 - Buying a [smartphone](#) or [wearable device](#) for your child
 - [Online safety basics](#)
- [ParentLine](#) – a support service for parents and carers that includes a range of helpful articles, such as Addiction to Technology –the Warning Signs and Social Media and Safety.
- [Bullying. No Way!](#) – information for students, parents and schools about bullying and cyberbullying.