

Mobile Phone and Smartwatch Guidelines

Rationale

At Balmain Public School, we aim to empower our students to learn, live and lead as well-informed global citizens. For the purposes of this policy, 'devices' refer to mobile phones and smart watches.

The school **discourages** students from bringing mobile phones and smart watches to school. These devices cause disruption in classrooms and the playground and can be used inappropriately to access social media and take photos without permission. This can cause distress and breach the privacy of others.

Devices that have the capability of the following should be left at home or 'checked-in' at the front office once entering school grounds:

- Access to the internet
- Sending or receiving text messages
- Making or receiving phone calls
- Access to games
- Taking photos or videos

In the case where 'school mode' is available, devices must still be 'checked-in' to the front office as it is not possible to monitor each device.

Parents/carers are able to contact their children by calling the school phone number 9818 1177. If necessary, students can contact parents from the office phone.

If a parent/carer feels it is necessary for their child to bring a device (mobile phone or smart watch) to school, then the rules for student use of mobile phones and smart watches in the school are listed below:

- Devices brought to school are to be immediately 'checked-in' at the front office. Devices should not be kept in a student's bag.
- Balmain Public School cannot accept any responsibility for theft, loss or damage of these devices.
- Smart phone, smart watch, notification alerts and location must be switched off.
- Devices are not to be used to call home in an emergency. This is the duty of the school and the administrator/teacher in charge.
- Phones and watches are not to be used in the classroom, playground or incursion/excursion for any of the following purposes; check text messages, access games, the internet, images, the camera or videos.
- Phones and watches are not to be used to harass, bully or intimidate students or staff. Any use of mobile phones and smart watches by a student, that is in breach of these rules, will lead to the confiscation of the device.