Forestville Public School Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Procedures

Rationale

At Forestville Public School, we strive to engage students in learning where they experience growth and success; preparing them to lead rewarding lives as active citizens in a complex and dynamic world. The school has a number of digital devices that students access for educational purposes throughout the school day. An educational purpose is any use approved by a teacher or principal that supports student learning, wellbeing or educational attainment. We recognise that digital technology can empower authentic, meaningful, collaborative and engaged learning, and can better prepare students for their lives beyond school

However, as the learning, wellbeing and safety of our students is a priority, the school discourages students from bringing mobile phones and smart watches to school. These communication devices cause disruption in classrooms and the playground and can be used inappropriately to access social media and take photos without permission. They may put young people at risk and can be a distraction from their learning and engagement. This can cause distress and breach the privacy of others.

Parents are able to contact their children by calling the school phone number 9452 5444. If necessary, students can contact parents from the office phone.

If a parent feels it is necessary for their child to bring a communication 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 and kept at school are used entirely at their owner's risk. Forestville Public School cannot accept any responsibility for theft, loss or damage of these devices. Students and parents should also recognise that mobile devices are a highly prized target for theft.

- Mobile phones and smart watches are to be kept in the student's bag at all times including, before school, recess and lunchtime, and must be switched off or on silent.

- Smart phone, smart watch, notification alerts and location must be switched off.

- Phones and watches 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 to call home in the event of a mishap at school or because belongings have been forgotten unless at a teacher's discretion and under the supervision of the teacher. Typically, these events are to be dealt with by the school. Parents will be informed of any events that have impacted on their child.

- Phones and watches are not to be used in the classroom, playground, incursion/excursion or school event 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. Breaches will be dealt with as per the school's Discipline Policy.

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. In this instance, parents will be notified and confiscated devices will need to be collected from the Administration office by the student's parent or guardian at the end of the day.