



**ST BENEDICT'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**
God in All of Life

Personal Devices Policy

Issued date:	June 2025	Review date:	June 2028
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Introduction

St Benedict's promotes high standards of teaching and learning in an environment free from unnecessary distraction or disruption. The school recognises the importance of personal devices in our society today. Whilst they can provide reassurance for parents that their child can contact them, this is not required during the school day as the school has a duty of care to each student. Given that widespread ownership of personal devices is commonplace, the following policy has been designed to support effective learning experiences at school and in social contexts where communication is legitimate, appropriate and does not distract from the core business of the school.

Rationale

St Benedict's Catholic School promotes the importance of using technology as a learning tool. The school also recognises that there is a need to identify and address issues pertaining to the inappropriate use of personal devices by students. This policy, therefore, provides clear guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of personal devices by students whilst on school property or attending a school event. Personal devices include, but are not limited to, mobile phones, smart watches, digital cameras, electronic games, tablets, and laptops.

Principles, Values, Understandings

The school's guiding values of love, community and learning underpin this policy. This policy ensures that equity, safety, dignity, wellbeing, and privacy is maintained for all members of the school community.

Policy Statement

The school understands that parents and carers may provide their children with personal devices. When at school students are under the duty of care of the school and all needs of each individual child will be met. Parents and carers are reminded that the school administration office is the appropriate point of contact for reaching students. This policy extends to students attending excursions, camps, or any other extra-curricular activities outside of the school grounds.

Implementation Issues

- Any personal devices brought to school are to be switched off and handed in to the administration office on arrival at school and collected at the end of the school day. They should remain switched off until the student has left the school grounds.
- Students who bring personal devices to school do so at their own risk. In the event of loss, theft or damage of any personal device, the school will not accept liability. Similarly, the school accepts no responsibility to investigate the loss, replacement, or alleged theft of such devices.

- Students are not permitted to contact anyone or be contacted on personal devices. If contact with parents, carers or other persons is necessary, a member of staff will facilitate contact.
- The School Leadership Team will respond to any incident whereby a student has inappropriately possessed or used a personal device.

Support Resources

Student Behaviour Policy - <https://www.stbenedicts.catholic.edu.au/about/school-policies/>