



# Orange Anglican Grammar School

## Acceptable Use Policy for Student Smart Devices

*"I know many parents who are anxious about the pervasiveness of phones and technology in our children's learning environments. It's time to clear our classrooms of unnecessary distractions and create better environments for learning."*

*Chris Minns, NSW Premier, 2023*

Throughout 2023 the NSW Department of Education moved to ban the use of smartphones in public schools, unless for medical or teacher directed educational purposes. This move sets a helpful precedent for the manner in which Orange Anglican Grammar School manages the safe use of smart phones and smart watches.

It is not a requirement at Orange Anglican Grammar School for students to have a phone at school. The School has a duty of care for all students when they are attending the school. All communication between parents and students, during school hours, should occur via the School's Administration.

This policy details the conditions under which smartphones/watches are permitted at Orange Anglican Grammar School.

### **CONDITIONS OF USE**

Orange Anglican Grammar School recognises that parents/caregivers who for safety, security and/or emergency purposes may wish to provide their children with a smartphone. Students are permitted to bring a smartphone to school for use when in transit to and from school.

- The use of smartphones for all students will be banned from the time they arrive on school grounds until the time they leave school grounds. This includes before school and at break times. Therefore, once a student enters the school grounds, they must turn off their smartphone

and put it away and out of sight until they leave the school grounds at the end of the school day.

- The device is the responsibility of the student. The school takes no responsibility for loss, theft or damage to any device in any circumstance, even if confiscated at time of loss. Smart watches must be in 'aeroplane/school mode' so phone calls and messages cannot be sent or received during the school day.
- This policy includes any electronic payments to the Canteen. Paywave options or equivalent are not accepted as an exemption for use.

### **Exemptions to this policy include where a student requires a device**

- to monitor a health condition as part of a school approved documented health care plan (students who are exempt will carry a card).
- under the direct instruction of a teacher for educational purposes; or with permission of a teacher for a specified purpose.

### **BREACHES OF THIS POLICY**

1. For the first breach, confiscation of the device by any staff member, and returned to the student at the end of the day.
2. For the second breach, confiscation of the device by any staff member, stored at an Administration Office and a parent/caregiver will be required to attend to claim the device.
3. For repeated breaches, and for refusal to follow the instructions of a staff member, students will be dealt with in accordance with the School's Behaviour Management Policy.

Students are reminded that they must never photograph or record any person without their express permission. It is also prohibited to upload photos/videos/recordings of other students/staff to social media websites or email photos/videos/recordings to others if doing so could embarrass, humiliate or cause discomfort to the subject of the photo/video.

Smartphones are not to be used to bully, threaten, menace, harass or offend another person. This behaviour is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. In

some cases, it can constitute criminal behaviour; and reports of all incidents of misuse of smartphones will be recorded and retained on the student's file.

### **Workers' Responsibility**

All workers are responsible to:

- Model appropriate behaviour at all times;
- Be vigilant in monitoring students when using smart phones;
- Ensure smart phones/smart watches are not taken into exams or assessments;
- Deal with all reported and observed incidents of inappropriate smart technology use in accordance with this policy; and
- Ensure that any incident of inappropriate smart technology use that they observe or is reported to them, is recorded appropriately.

### **Definitions for the purpose of this policy**

*Smartphones* - includes smart watches and associated listening/smart accessories/devices, such as, but not limited to, connected headphones and earbuds/buds.

*School Grounds* – includes camps, excursions and/or any venue where students are under the supervision of teachers.