

Mobile IT: Personal Devices Policy

Background

Our children are digital natives – they have been born and brought up during the age of digital technology and are therefore familiar with computers and the internet from an early age. This includes wearable technology and personal devices and at the time of writing this policy, smart watches are increasing in popularity in broader society with several students wearing them to school.

We know that mobile phones and personal devices can be powerful learning tools for older students when they are used with good teacher guidance. These devices can have applications to learning areas such as coding or robotics. Functions installed on devices, such as advanced cameras can help students explore and document their learnings. For this reason, there is often more flexibility for high schools to decide their local policy.

Policy Statement

Mobile IT device is classified by Brisbane Catholic Education to mean laptop and tablet computers, mobile and smartphones, media players and any other portable electronic devices with the ability to process, store and/or transmit electronic data. This includes smartwatches.

Guardian Angels' Wynnum, believes that a clearly stated and sensibly implemented Wearable Technology Policy is important for the following reasons:

- Schools, in partnership with families, need to provide clear guidance for students to become informed, safe, respectful, and responsible digital users.
- To regulate the use of personal devices by children in primary school, to ensure the students' capacity to fully engage in their learning.
- To support the provision of a safe and inclusive learning environment for all children which considers student safety, health and wellbeing, equity of access and uniform durability, practicality, and expense.
- To ensure that the children at Guardian Angels' Wynnum are not put at risk of harm. This can include being exposed to:
 - cyberbullying
 - harmful content or behaviour
 - safeguarding issues
 - impact on their communication skills, mental health and wellbeing

Scope

This policy applies to all students enrolled at Guardian Angels' Primary School, Wynnum. It is an expectation that all parents support the adherence to this policy.

Implementation

The schools' position is that primary aged students cannot use their mobile phones and personal devices at school during school hours. Guardian Angels' Wynnum will restrict the use of personal digital devices, including mobile phones, and wearable technology during school hours.

This includes devices with a school mode, as devices cannot be individually monitored or regulated.

Primary-aged students will not be allowed to use digital technology during class time, recess, and lunch unless for an educational purpose or where a student needs it for other reasons, such as an adjustment for disability or to support individual learning and wellbeing needs.

Parents and carers of Primary School children can request an exemption, outlined in genuine reasons below.

Must be accompanied by a genuine reason – which creates an exemption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The student uses their device to monitor or manage a medical condition. – The device is an agreed adjustment for a student with disability or learning difficulties. – The device is used for translation by a student with English as an additional language or dialect (EALD).
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Document Information	
Version	2
Audience	Parents and Guardians
Policy Owner	Guardian Angels' Primary School
Policy Manager	Leadership Team
Policy Author	School Board 2022
Effective Date	January 2023
Last Review	N/A
Next Review	January 2025
Related Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/attachment/advice-for-state-schools-on-acceptable-use-of-ict-facilities-and-devices.docx – Use of mobile phones and other devices (education.qld.gov.au) – Social Media (Anti-Trolling) Bill Attorney-General's Department (ag.gov.au) – Acceptable Use (bne.catholic.edu.au) – Social Media and the Community (education.qld.gov.au)