Mobile Phones and Smart Wearables Policy

Prepared by	Principal and Head of Senior School
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1.0	June 2020	New Calderwood Christian School Policy

Version History

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Calderwood Christian School: Mission In Christ's service to partner with parents in providing a quality Christian Education founded on the Word of God.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Mobile phones and Smart Wearable technology in schools have proven to be challenging to manage. Whilst these devices could, and do, prove to be invaluable learning tools, they also can cause distraction. These may include:

- task switching
- inappropriate use of social media
- access to unfiltered content
- publication of inappropriate material and bullying

As a result, they produce an imbalance in the cost/benefit ratio.

Due to the recent phenomenon of children's connectivity to smartphones and the proliferation of phones and smart wearables in schools for children, studies are beginning to emerge that point to the negative implications of these devices on learning.

Mobile phone use, particularly, has been in the media spotlight and at the centre of some significant political agendas of recent times. Research findings and public attention has resulted in some states mandating specific phone policies for their public schools. Queensland and NSW are two examples.

CCS aspires to strong Christian values that are expressed through policies and guidelines, programs and cultural expectations. These values have the potential of being compromised through the unfiltered and unsupervised use of mobile phone and smart wearable technology.

For these reasons the following policy exists.

2 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document outlines the policy and procedures of school use of mobile phones and smart wearables, and the code of conduct students must adhere to in relation to these devices.

3 JUNIOR SCHOOL

Junior School students are not permitted to bring mobile phones/smart wearables to school, except in circumstances under which the parents/carers seek written permission from the Head of Junior School. Smart wearables are not to be worn at school.

3.1 Procedures

- Permission from the Head of Junior School may be sought by parents/carers who can justify health, safety or personal reasons for which the student requires a mobile phone

- Parents/Carers are invited to contact the school office to request an email with a link to the 'Permission to Bring a Mobile Phone to School' Google form, and complete the form for consideration.
- Students permitted to bring a mobile phone to school must hand the device in at the school office each morning. The student is responsible for collecting the device each afternoon.
- The school does not accept responsibility for lost or damaged student mobile phones/smart wearables.
- Students using mobile phones/smart wearables inappropriately before or after school will have the device confiscated and their behaviour brought to the attention of the Head of Junior School. The device will be retained in the school office until it can be collected by a parent.
- The Head of Junior School reserves the right to revoke a student's privilege of bringing a mobile phone to school.

4 SENIOR SCHOOL

In Senior School, we acknowledge the importance of students having mobile phones before and after school for the purposes of contact with parents, with employers or for safety. Students will continue to be allowed to bring their phones to school and use them before and after school if necessary. However, from the commencement of Term 3 2020, students will no longer be allowed to have their mobile phone on their person (in their pockets) or in with their equipment between the hours of 8:10 am and 4:00 pm.

4.1 Procedures

- Any mobile phones brought to school must be turned off and remain in the student's bag for the duration of the day.
- Should a student require the use of a phone during the school day, they are expected to request the use of a phone at the school office.
- Should they need to make a call between the end of the school day and 4:00 pm, students will be expected to seek permission from a teacher before doing so and will respectfully follow teacher instructions regarding when and where they may make the call.
- It is expected that students who choose to use their device for web browsing, streaming content or making phone calls during the bus trip to school, will have their phone turned off and back in their bag before they get off the bus.
- Any student identified as having a mobile phone on their person, or using a smart wearable device to send or receive texts, images or audio, during the school day (8:10 am – 4:00 pm) will be asked to take it directly to the school office. This will be considered the first breach of school policy.
- After a device is handed in, the student will be required to acknowledge the way in which they have breached this policy and that they understand the implications of breaking the policy again through this process.

- A docket will be provided to the student from the school office.
- The docket will be presented to the teacher who requested the phone to be taken to the school office, as evidence of the student having complied.
- The docket will then be presented at the school office at the end of the school day in order to collect the device.
- A second breach of the mobile phone policy will result in the student receiving a Friday afternoon detention, and parents will be requested to meet with the Head of Senior School to discuss the ramifications of any further breaches. As a result of this second breach of policy, they will be expected to hand in their phone to the school office every morning and collect it each afternoon. The duration of this consequence will be at the discretion of the Head of Senior School and Principal.
- Finally, a third breach of the mobile phone policy will result in the student receiving an additional Friday afternoon detention, and parents requested to meet with the Principal. This third breach may compromise the student's enrolment as it will be considered a breach of the enrolment contract.
- Refusing to hand the device in, regardless of the number of times they have been caught with their phone, will be considered a failure to follow instructions and will result in consequences in alignment with our discipline policy.
- Should students accidently bring a mobile phone or smart watch into an assessment task, they should give it to their class teacher or examination supervisor before the task commences. In the event of a mobile phone sounding during an assessment task, the student may be deemed as having engaged in malpractice in order to gain an unfair advantage. This may result in the award of a mark of zero for the task as per School Assessment policy. All incidents relating to the sounding of a mobile phone, or use of a smart watch during an assessment task, will be referred to the Director of Teaching & Learning to investigate and determine the consequences in conjunction with the Head of Senior School.
- On the rare occasion that a mobile phone or wearable device is the only device that can achieve the learning goals of a Year's 10-12 lesson, after marking the roll, the teacher will invite students to retrieve their devices from their bags. The teacher will also provide time within the lesson to return the device to their bags.
- On some excursions, at the discretion of the Principal, students may be permitted to take a mobile phone with them to enhance their learning, or in addition to the safety net provided by the school. On occasions, it is helpful for students to be able to contact home should the time of arrival be uncertain, or if it changes. Students are expected to follow teacher direction regarding mobile phones during the excursion and any travel to and from the venue. Failure to do so will result in consequences as described in this policy.

Calderwood Christian School

Senior School

Mobile Phone Policy Breach

Student Acknowledgement

I, _____ acknowledge that I knowingly breached the Calderwood Christian School Mobile Phone and Smart Wearable Policy.

I understand that additional breaches of the Calderwood Christian School Mobile Phone and Smart Wearable Policy will result in consequences as outlined in the policy.

Student's signature: _____ Date: _____