



## SUTHERLAND NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

### Appropriate Use of Digital Communication Devices Agreement

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Mobile Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Sutherland North Public School accepts that some parents give their children digital communication devices for communication outside school hours. The school has clear guidelines for the appropriate use of digital communication devices as outlined in the **Guidelines for Appropriate Use of Digital Communication Devices at School** document. Any student who brings a communication device onto school grounds, is required to have read and clearly understood the guidelines as well as co-sign the following agreement with their parent/carer.

#### STUDENT AGREEMENT

I have read the **Sutherland North Public School Guidelines for Appropriate Use of Digital Communication Devices at School** and agree to the following:

- I understand and will abide by all the guidelines for Acceptable use of communication devices at Sutherland North Public School.
- When bringing my digital communication device to school I will switch it off as soon as I enter the school grounds and ensure it remains in my school bag until I leave the school grounds at the end of the day. I understand that I am not permitted to use my device in the playground before school or while participating in a school activity. I will ensure that it is only used for communication purposes before and after school hours.
- When wearing a **Smart Watch** to school, I will hand it in to the office, switched onto silent as soon as I arrive at school.
- I understand the behaviours that constitute **unacceptable use** of communication devices and I will not engage in these behaviours at any time. I acknowledge that if I break the terms of this agreement my parents will be contacted and I may be banned from bringing my device onto school grounds.

Student Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### PARENTAL AGREEMENT

I have read the **Sutherland North Public School Guidelines for Appropriate Use of Communication Devices at School** and agree that:

- I/we give permission for my child to carry a digital communication device to school.
- I/we will ensure that my child will only use their communication device for communication purposes **before and after school hours**.
- I/we have read the **Sutherland North Public School Guidelines for Appropriate Use of Communication Devices at School** and have discussed the guidelines with my child.
- I/we agree to support school guidelines with regards to digital communication device use and agree to support school decisions and actions regarding these devices.

Parent Name/s (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature/s: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Smart Watches**

Students wearing smart watches to school are to hand them into the office and switched to silent where they will be kept in a satchel with the student's name between the hours of 8.30am – 3.00pm. These devices are not to be used to make calls, send text messages, access the internet, take photos or use any other application while student are on site at Sutherland North Public School, at school related activities and outside of school where there is a clear and close connection between the school and the conduct of students.

### **Consequences of Inappropriate Use of Communication Devices**

Students who engage in inappropriate use of communication devices will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the school's discipline policy. Some inappropriate uses can constitute criminal behaviour and will be reported to the police.

- Students who infringe the guidelines in this document will have their device confiscated by school staff. The device will then be stored securely until the student's parents are informed and arrangements are made for the parents to collect the device.
- Repeated infringements will result in the withdrawal of the agreement to allow the student to bring the device to school.

### **Implementation of these Guidelines**

- Teachers will discuss these guidelines with students to ensure they have a clear understanding of the content.
- The community will be made aware of the guidelines through the school newsletter, at P&C meetings and on the school's website.
- The guidelines will be made clear to all students and their parents seeking enrolment at Sutherland North Public School.

### **Exemptions**

The Principal can only approve exemptions to the guidelines outlined in this document. Applications for exemption should only be requested due to exceptional circumstances for an educational purpose where the use forms part of a reasonable adjustment to support student learning and wellbeing.

### **Ratification and Review**

This policy was ratified by the Sutherland North Public School staff and community in Term 1, 2023 and will be reviewed annually or as required.

### **References**

NSW Department of Education Communication Devices and Associated Services Policy  
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/communication-devices-and-associated-services-policy>

### **Appendix**

Sutherland North Public School Appropriate Use of Communication Devices at School Agreement