



SILVER TREE STEINER SCHOOL

Student Mobile Device Policy

2025

This policy applies to: Students, parents, teachers

AUTHORISED BY:	Head of School
VERSION:	Version 7
DATE:	May 2025
REVIEW:	May 2028

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Policy

Silver Tree Steiner School discourages the use of mobile devices for students as it is contrary to Steiner Education philosophy and pedagogy but recognises there may be necessary exemptions.

Mobile devices include:

- Mobile Phones
- Smart Phones
- Smart Watches (e.g. Fitbit, Apple Watch, Garmin Vivofit, Spacetalk Loop)

With the rise in mobile device ownership, it is essential for the Head of School, teachers, students and parents to take steps to ensure that mobile devices are used responsibly. This policy aims to promote responsible use and acceptable behavior, as well as to address issues related to theft, damage, and inappropriate conduct.

To bring a mobile device to school, students and their parent/guardian must read the *Student Mobile Device Policy* and have their parents or guardians sign the *Student Mobile Device Permission Slip* (see Appendix A).

This policy also applies during school excursions, camps, and extracurricular activities.

Related Policies

Other policies that should be read in conjunction with this policy are:

- Behaviour Development Policy
- Student Code of Conduct

Procedure

Responsibility

- The decision to provide a mobile device to a child should be made by the child's parents or guardians.
- Parents should be aware when their child takes a mobile device onto school premises, *the school accepts no responsibility if a student does so without explicit knowledge from the parent/guardian.*
- It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile devices onto school premises to adhere to the guidelines outlined in this document.
- The student's Class Teacher should be made aware when a child brings their mobile device to school.
- Permission to have a mobile device at school/while under the school's supervision is contingent upon parent/guardian permission in the form of a signed copy of the Student Mobile Device Permission Slip (Appendix A). Parents/guardians may revoke approval at any time.

Acceptable Use

Silver Tree Steiner School does not permit students to have access to a mobile device during the school day, for any reason. Our school policy is such that:

- Students who bring a mobile device to school are not permitted to use it whilst on school grounds, including before and after school.
- Once on school grounds, students must have the mobile device switched off and out of sight. This includes outside the school shop, the school carpark or the school driveway.

- Students who carry a mobile device to school must check it in at Reception *before they go to class*.
- Students are required to collect their mobile device from Reception after school/before they leave school grounds.
- Parents are reminded that at all times, the School Office remains the appropriate point of contact for your child to be reached and assisted in the most timely and appropriate way. Parents should not try to make contact with their child on their mobile device at any time whilst they are on school grounds.
- This policy applies to all school-based activities, including off-site excursions and camps, unless prior arrangements have been discussed, agreed upon and arranged with the Class Teacher and Head of School.

Theft or Damage

- Students are required to label their mobile device clearly with their full name.
- To eliminate the risk of theft or damage, students who bring a mobile device onto school premises must check the device into Reception before going to class. Mobile devices are not permitted to be kept in school bags, classroom desks or in student pockets.
- Mobile devices which are found in the school, and whose owner cannot be located, should be handed to Reception.
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile devices.
- The school accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their mobile device stolen while travelling to and from school.

Inappropriate Conduct

Any student who uses vulgar, derogatory, or obscene language while using a mobile device on school grounds will face disciplinary actions as sanctioned by the Head of School.*

Students with mobile phones may not engage in personal attacks, harass another person, or post private information about another person using SMS messages, taking/sending photos or objectionable images, and phone calls. Students using mobile phones to bully other students will face disciplinary actions as sanctioned by the Head of School.*

***Note** - it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, if action as sanctioned by the Head of School, Teacher or Governing Body is deemed ineffective, as with all such incidents, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the police.

Sanctions For Any Breaches of This Policy

The consequences for breaching this policy will be determined by the Head of School in accordance with the School's Concerns and Complaints Policy. The breach will be investigated by a nominated senior member of staff and a course of action will be recommended to the Head of School.

The sanctions which may be employed include:

- Issue a reminder of their agreement to the terms of this policy.
- A first and final warning meeting, and subsequent letter being issued to inform the relevant person/s of the outcome of the investigation and that another breach will not be tolerated.
- The School taking such other steps as it may in its reasonable discretion determine appropriate according to the nature of the breach.
- The discontinuation of your child/ren's enrolment at the school, effective immediately.

Appendix A – Student Mobile Device Permission Slip



**SILVER TREE
STEINER SCHOOL**

**Student Mobile Device
Permission Slip**

I have read and understood the Student Mobile Device Policy about appropriate use of mobile devices at Silver Tree Steiner School and I understand that this form will be kept on file at the school and that the details may be used (and shared with a third party, if necessary) to assist in the identification of a device should the need arise (e.g. if lost, or if the device is being used inappropriately). I agree to abide by the terms of the policy and understand that failure to do so may result in consequences as outlined in the policy.

I give my child permission to carry a mobile device to school and understand that my child will be responsible for ensuring that the mobile device is:

- Not used on school grounds.
- Is switched off and kept at Reception during the school day. *The device is to be handed into Reception on arrival at school and collected on departure.*
- Used appropriately and correctly while under the school's supervision, as outlined in this document. This also applies to excursions or school camps, unless other prior arrangements have been made with the Class Teacher and the Head of School.

Parent name (print) _____

Parent signature _____

Date _____

Student name (print) _____

Type of mobile device _____

Mobile phone number _____

Student signature _____

Date _____