



**PERTH WALDORF
SCHOOL**
Steiner Education

**High School Technology
Policy
Computers, Mobile Phones
and Smart Watches
V2.01
website**

HIGH SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY POLICY	
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Links:	n/a
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1. POLICY STATEMENT

Steiner Education is founded on the belief that new ideas have the most beneficial effects on students when they are presented at the right time. It is for this reason that the primary school does not use any electronic technology in its primary school educational programs, but instead focuses on human interaction as the medium for teaching and learning.

When entering the high school, students are slowly introduced to various uses of technology. In Class 8 and 9 the focus is still on the human interactions and technology is used when it will significantly improve the learning outcome or it is integral to the content being taught. Technology is not used just because it is the easier option.

2. COMPUTERS

Classes 8 and 9

Staff in the High School recognise that the majority of students who enter Class 8 will not have any experience using computers for educational purposes. They will take this into account when planning their lessons and assessments and scaffold tasks accordingly. For example, any research tasks would ideally have a list of recommended and trusted sites from where information can be gathered.

IT classes will teach students the basic skills they will need for school work over the course of Class 8. These skills include:

- Saving files on a USB and their Student Drive;
- Word processing;
- Typing;
- Cybersafety;
- Appropriate use of the internet.

During the first semester of Class 8, teachers will not:

1. Set homework that requires students to use a computer.
2. Program in-class activities involving IT (e.g. word processing, internet research, etc.)

However, they may consult with the IT teacher about setting an assignment that meets the needs of both subject areas.

For the second half of Class 8 and for Class 9, teachers may set tasks using computers where technology is essential to the achievement of the learning outcomes. However, students should not be expected to have access to a computer at home. Either, time must be provided in class to complete tasks, or alternative methods of completion should also be available.

Students with learning support needs may use a computer to type assignments or to assist with reading/dictation if recommended by the Learning Support Coordinator.

Classes 10, 11 and 12

Students from Class 10 onwards can be expected to have access to a computer outside of school to complete work, even if this requires them to access their local library. However, staff are still expected to be conscious of the various levels of confidence in using technology and design tasks accordingly.

Class 12 students can be provided with a school computer to assist with working on their Class 12 project if they do not have access to one at home.

Students are not allowed to use their own devices whilst at school, unless a contract has been completed and this is considered a necessary action.

3. **MOBILE PHONES AND SMART WATCHES**

Students are not permitted to use their mobile phones on school grounds without the express permission of the teacher. This includes listening to music/using the device in the morning before school or as they leave at the end of the school day. Students must not be wearing headphones at school regardless of whether or not they are connected to a device.

Phones must be turned off or on silent mode during school hours. Smart watches must be placed on airplane mode. Students are not allowed to use their phones on school grounds at the beginning or end of the school day.

If a student needs to use their phone, for example to access a phone number, they must first ask permission, and then use it only while being supervised.

Phones that are being used without permission will be confiscated and handed in to the High School Admin Office for collection at the end of the day.

Staff are also expected to limit the use of their mobile phones in public areas.

Students who have permission to use their device to take photos of the board, should clarify with the teacher or assistant the best time for doing so.

Examples of where a student may reasonably request to use a mobile phone:

- A student who has trouble writing quickly and neatly could record an interview.
- Students are conducting an experiment that uses an app on their phone that cannot be replaced with other equipment.

However, teachers should be aware of the requirements of their class in advance and request equipment or plan accordingly, so that the use of mobile phones is rare. There should never be an expectation for students to have access to a mobile device.

Staff are expected to be aware that inviting students to use their own devices at school, contrary to this policy, is not inclusive of all students and creates unnecessary external pressure on both students and caregivers to 'keep up' with peers.