Umina Beach Public School recognises the mobile environment is an immersive aspect of our current day-to-day lives, and one in which students are often both knowledgeable and comfortable. Umina Beach Public School also recognises that the use of smartwatches in classrooms can be problematic, distracting and the cause of social wellbeing issues. When accessed at school, Smartwatches can detract from social interaction with peers and engagement with school activities. UBPS supports the restrictions of digital devices, such as smartwatches, in accordance with the NSW Department of Education: Students’ Use of Mobile Phones in Schools policy *(insert policy link here*). Restricting the use of smartwatches at school aims to increase focus in classrooms, remove distractions and promote positive social interaction, while reducing the potential for online bullying.

**Safe use of smart watches:**

* Students are not permitted to use their smartwatches during school time. Smart Watches must be ‘off and away’ or set to flight mode during the school day.
* Parent/carers should not contact students via their child’s Smartwatch during the hours of the school day. Parents/carers should contact the school by phone or email in regard to changes to pick up arrangements. Important messages regarding home travel should be sent after 3.15pm.
* In accordance with department and school policy, students are not permitted to send messages via their smartwatch during the school day.
* In accordance with department and school policy, students must not use their smartwatch to film/record/upload during the school day. Students are informed of the serious consequences that may apply if department policies are not followed.

**Other information:**

There may be individual circumstances where a child may be anxious or concerned at school. In the first instance, the child should talk with their teacher or another trusted adult at the school. Students can access support at the office if they need further assistance. If it is considered that communication with a parent/carer family member would assist in reducing anxiety, this will be organised for the support of the child.

In some circumstances, students may be able to check their smartwatch during the school day, if they have asked permission from their teacher.

There may be students who have a medical or wellbeing need which will require them to access a smartwatch. Parents/carers will need to apply for an Exemption Pass.

For any questions or further assistance, please contact the school office. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.