



USE OF MOBILE PHONES AND OTHER HAND-HELD DEVICES POLICY

From the beginning of Term 1 2024, legislation was enacted to ensure all Queensland state school students keep their mobile phones switched off and **'away for the day'** during school hours (8:40am - 2:55pm). Notifications on wearable devices, such as smartwatches, must also be disabled to prevent phone calls, messages and other notifications from being sent or received during this time as well. This legislation also applies to mobile phone accessories such as headphones/pods, which must be out of sight and not worn unless for approved learning activities; and other hand-held consoles for gaming or music etc.

'Away for the day' will support schools to maintain a strong focus on educational achievement, student wellbeing and engagement by:

- providing optimal learning and teaching environments
- encouraging increased face-to-face social interactions between students
- promoting the health and wellbeing of students through increased social interaction and physical activity
- reducing the potential for students to be exposed to the negative impacts of the digital world, resulting from unsafe or inappropriate technology use.

For this reason, mobile phones and wearable devices are prohibited from use on school property, including making phone calls, sending or receiving text messages, playing music or videos, receiving notifications, capturing video or still photographs, or attempting to "hotspot" to bypass the school's network. If a student chooses to bring a phone to school, the device must be switched off and kept out of sight – 'Away for the day' at all times.

School approved exemptions:

- for school payments (e.g., tuckshop, uniform shop and office);
- for recording evidence for assessment tasks only during class time when specified on the assessment task sheet;
- during representative school sports, camps and excursions at specified and supervised times (in accordance with the [School excursions](#) procedure);
- for a specific individual student circumstance which must be negotiated with the Principal or delegate through written application, eg a specific health requirement such as noise cancelling headphones; translating speech for an international student; or for a particular disability or wellbeing need. Students who have approved individual exemptions will be issued with a Technology Exemption card.

Expectations: Students and families are expected to follow this policy. School phones are available for contact. The following may apply for non-compliance: (*Hub refers to the Cultural and Wellbeing Hub (J Block)*)

	Response	Action	
MINOR	1 st Breach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Students hand phone to the Hub for the day and receive a receipt○ Warning and rule reminder. Mobile phones are <i>away for the day</i>. Mobile phones must be off and out of sight (including headphones/pods).○ Smartwatch/wearable notifications are off○ SMS home to parents/carers	Failure to follow staff instructions may result in further disciplinary action.
	2 nd Breach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Students hand phone to the Hub for the day and receive a receipt○ Rule reminder. Mobile phones are <i>away for the day</i>. Mobile phones must be off and out of sight (including headphones/pods).○ Smartwatch/wearable notifications are off○ Hub Detention at 1st break (or following day if breach after break 1)○ Student must complete <i>responsible technology use</i> booklet○ SMS home to parents/carers	
	3 rd Breach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ As per 2nd Breach response and○ Parent/carer to collect phone from the Hub or negotiate with school staff	
MAJOR	4 th Breach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Suspension may result due to continued technology violation/non-compliance with school expectations○ Parent/carer contact/meeting to address behaviour and establish a plan to prevent continuation	
	Any further breach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Individual student management via Hub HOD/Deputy Principal/Principal○ Repeated behaviour will result in phone remaining at home or Hub on a long-term basis (determined by Hub Head of Department/Deputy Principal)○ Daily check-in with Hub/Exec staff○ Parent/carer contact/meeting○ Individual support processes/plan	

Note: Security of a personal device: Students are responsible for the safe keeping of personal items including mobile phones and wearable devices. The school is not responsible for loss, damage or theft.