



Junction Park State School

*Empowering Minds, Building Futures
Connected - Courageous - Curious*



Mobile Device Policy

Important to note

- For the purpose of this document, *mobile phones and wearable devices* include mobile phones, smartwatches, handheld devices and other emerging technologies which have the ability to connect to telecommunication networks or the internet.
- This document does not apply to personal or school-owned devices, such as iPads, tablets or laptops, that are approved for educational use.

Purpose

This document:

- outlines the requirement for all Queensland state school students to keep mobile phones switched off and ‘**away for the day**’ during school hours, and while attending school activities, such as representative school sport, excursions and camps
- outlines the requirement for all students to switch off notifications on wearable devices, including smartwatches, during school hours, and while attending school activities, such as representative school sport, excursions and camps
- provides guidance on the application of exemptions for students who require access to their mobile phone or wearable device during school hours.

Overview

Queensland state schools are committed to reducing the distraction of mobile phones and wearable devices to provide optimal learning environments for all students.

‘**Away for the day**’ aims to:

- provide optimal learning and teaching environments, free from the distractions caused by personal use of mobile phones and wearable devices
- support schools to create safe and supportive learning environments that prioritise student engagement and wellbeing
- reduce the potential for students to be exposed to the negative impacts of the digital world, resulting from unsafe or inappropriate use of technology, such as cyberbullying, accessing harmful content or breaches of personal privacy.

Bringing mobile phones and wearable devices to school

Students are permitted to bring mobile phones and wearable devices to school to:

- support safe travel to and from school
- make contact with parents/guardians outside of the school day, and
- be contacted about their own child or person under their care.

Storage of mobile phones

Student mobile phones will be stored during the school day;

- in a secure location, in the library. Students will hand in their mobile device upon arrival to school.

Exemptions

The Department of Education consulted with key stakeholder groups to develop a list of exemptions for instances where students may require access to, and use of a mobile phone or wearable device during the school day.

Students with an approved exemption must only use their mobile phone or wearable device for the intended, approved purpose.

Individual circumstances

Consideration of individual circumstances must be given to students who require temporary or ongoing exemptions to the school's local implementation approach, including where:

- the mobile phone or wearable device is used by the student to monitor or manage a medical condition (in accordance with the [Managing students' health support needs at school procedure](#))
- the mobile phone or wearable device is used as an agreed reasonable adjustment for a student with disability or learning difficulties
- the mobile phone or wearable device is used by the student as an augmentative or alternative communication system or as an aide to access and participate in the environment, e.g. navigation or object/people identification applications
- the mobile phone or wearable device is used as an agreed adjustment for a student with English as an additional language or dialect

Principals (or their delegates) will consider requests for exemption received from students or parents on a case-by-case basis. When considering an exemption request, principals (or their delegates) may seek additional information to support the need for the student to access their mobile phone or wearable device during the school day.

Supporting responsible use of mobile phones and other devices

In determining the local school approach on consequences for not handing in a mobile device, it is necessary to ensure that responses are proportionate and equitable and takes into consideration the individual circumstances of each student. This means making decisions that are reasonable for the situation. Some examples include:

- providing a verbal reminder to the student or class about expected behaviour
- directing the student to place the mobile phone in storage (e.g., Library)
- directing the student to switch off notifications on their wearable device
- removing the device temporarily and returning to the student or requesting their parent collect the device at the conclusion of the school day
- applying a detention for a defined period of time (e.g. Lunchtime)
- increasing staff supervision of use in circumstances where the student requires access to their mobile phone or wearable device for medical, disability and/or wellbeing reasons. For example, students who use smartphone apps for health monitoring and management.