



Mobile Phones and other Devices

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 as part of the school's Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy.

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
- encourage increased face-to-face social interactions between students
- promote the health and wellbeing of students by providing opportunities for social interaction and physical activity during break times, and
- 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.

Student use of mobile phones and wearable devices at school

All state school students must keep their mobile phones switched off and 'away for the day' during school hours. Notifications on wearable devices, such as smartwatches, must be switched off so that phone calls, messages and other notifications cannot be sent or received during school hours.

This policy also applies to student attendance at school activities, such as representative school sport, excursions and camps, unless otherwise determined by the school principal.

Students participating activities, such as off-site Vocational Education and Training or work placements must follow the expectations of the organisation in charge regarding the use of mobile devices.

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, friends and part-time employers outside of the school day, and
- be contacted about their own child or person under their care.

Storage of mobile phones

Glenala State High School is not responsible for the storage of students' mobile phones or other devices. The safe keeping of these personal devices is the responsibility of the student.

Exemptions

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
- the student has extenuating circumstances that necessitates the need for access to their mobile phone or wearable device during the school day, including (but not limited to) students who contribute financially to their household, independent students, and students who are primary carers for a child or family member, or
- students in Years 11 and 12 are applying for Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (AARA) for assistive technology.

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.

Where an exemption is not approved and the student or their parent expresses dissatisfaction with the decision, information about how to make a customer complaint and how a complaint will be managed should be made available in accordance with the [Customer complaints management procedure](#).

School specific exemptions (at principal discretion)

It is acknowledged that the use of mobile phones and wearable devices can support the school's teaching and learning programs by providing valuable learning experiences for students, as well as supporting day-to-day school operations:

- teachers, in line with their school's local implementation approach, may give permission for students to use their mobile phone or wearable device in the classroom, for a specific and agreed educational purpose
- principals may determine to allow the use of mobile phones and wearable devices to make school payments, including for tuckshop, uniform shop and office payments, and/or
- principals may determine to allow students access and use of mobile phones and wearable devices during school representative sports, camps or excursions at specified and supervised times (in accordance with the [School excursions procedure](#)).

Supporting responsible use of mobile phones and other devices

Glenala State High School students are explicitly taught the expected behaviours of the Glenala Way in relation to mobile phones and other devices through GROWTH lessons and is documented in the school's Positive Behaviour for Learning Matrix. If a student is seen using a mobile phone or other device in an inappropriate way, they will be:

- asked by a staff member to take their device to the Administration building
- advised that their device will be kept inside the office until 3pm when they can collect their device
- advised that their parent/ carer will be contacted in regards to the misuse of their device

Mobile phones and wearable devices that have been temporarily removed from the student must be stored and retained in accordance with the department's [Temporary removal of student property by school staff procedure](#).

Legislation

- [Education \(General Provisions\) Act 2006 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Education \(General Provisions\) Regulation 2017 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Human Rights Act Qld \(2019\)](#)