



# Parents and carers

'Away for the day' – Frequently asked questions

# Phones

**away**

# for the day

from 2024



# Mobile phones and wearable devices

## When does 'away for the day' begin?

From Term 1 2024, all state school students must keep their mobile phones switched off and 'away for the day' during school hours.

## Why are students being asked to put their phone away for the day?

This approach is being implemented in all Queensland state schools to help:

- reduce distractions in the classroom
- increase face-to-face interactions between students
- promote student health and wellbeing
- reduce the potential for student exposure to negative impacts of the digital world, such as cyberbullying.

## Can my child take their phone with them when travelling to and from school?

Yes, students are allowed to bring their mobile phone or wearable device to school. Students will be able to use their phone outside of school hours to support safe travel, and to make contact with parents, friends and part-time employers.

## Can my child use wearable devices at school?

No. Wearable devices, including smart watches cannot be used during the day.

## My child's phone does not connect to the internet, will they be allowed to use their phone?

No. Any phone that has the ability to connect to telecommunication networks or the internet must be switched off and away for the day.

## My child uses their phone / wearable device to manage and monitor a health condition. Can they still use it?

Yes, medical exemptions will be made available for students who require access to their mobile phone or wearable device for health monitoring purposes. This should be documented in their health care plan in accordance with the *Managing students' health support needs at school procedure*.

Please speak with the school principal regarding processes for requesting a medical exemption.

### Will my child still get to use their phone for learning purposes, or in subjects that require technology?

In some circumstances, teachers may give permission for students to use their mobile phone or wearable device in the classroom, for a specific and agreed educational purpose. In this instance, teachers will help them to unlock their phone pouch for the agreed purpose, then at the conclusion of the activity, teachers will direct them to relock their phone pouch.

### My child forgot their lunch, how will I contact them?

You can continue to contact your child through existing school processes, such as phoning the school office.

### How will I contact my child at school in the event of an emergency?

In the event of an emergency, you will still be able to contact your child through existing school processes, such as phoning the school office.

### How will my child contact me while they are at school?

If your child becomes unwell or experiences an issue during the school day, it is important that they report to a staff member in the first instance. Staff will follow appropriate school processes and make contact with parents and carers.

In the event of an emergency at school, the school will follow their Emergency Response Plan to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff, which includes processes for communicating with parents and carers.

### My child has a part-time job, how will their employer contact them?

Students are permitted to bring their mobile phones to school; however, they must be switched off and put 'away for the day' during school hours. It is important that your child notifies their

employer that they will not be able to receive or respond to messages and calls during school hours. After school hours, students will be able to check for messages from their employers.

In some instances, where your child contributes financially to the household, exemptions may be available. Please speak with the school principal regarding this matter.

## Will my child be able to use their phone / wearable device to make school payments?

Students can bring their mobile phones to school; however, they must be switched off and put 'away for the day' using lockable pouches during school hours. Payments can be made before and after school. The tuckshop will accept cash and card payments, and online ordering before school.

## Can my child use their phone while they are on excursions?

Mobile phones and wearable devices are not to be used during school activities such as representative sport, camps and excursions, unless an exception is made by the principal.

If this is the case, information will be included in the excursion permission form.

## Where will my child store their phone during the day?

At Bundaberg North State High School, students will be expected to store their mobile phones and wearable devices in lockable pouches during school hours.

## Who is responsible for my child's phone during the day?

At Bundaberg North State High School, students will be responsible for storing their mobile phones and wearable devices in lockable pouches during school hours. This pouch will be kept with the student during the day.

## Who is responsible for the lockable mobile phone pouch?

Students will receive one pouch at the beginning of the year. It must be kept in a clean, usable condition while the student is enrolled at Bundaberg North State High School. If a student damages or loses their pouch, they will be invoiced for the cost of a replacement pouch. Students will write their name on their pouch and be responsible for the safety of the phone and pouch.