



# Students

'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 students must keep their mobile phones and wearable devices switched off and 'away for the day' during school hours.

## Can I bring my phone to school with me?

Yes, you can bring your mobile phone or wearable device to school, but you cannot use it during school hours.

## Can I use my smartwatch?

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

## Can I use my phone or wearable device at lunch or between classes?

No, your phone and your wearable devices must be switched off and placed in a lockable pouch for the entire school day, including during break times and transitions between classes.

## Why am I being asked to put my phone away for the day?

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

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

## My phone does not connect to the internet, can I still use it?

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

## I use my mobile phone / wearable device to manage and monitor a health condition. Can I still use it?

Yes, medical exemptions will be made available if you require access to your mobile phone or wearable device for health monitoring purposes.

Please speak with your parent and school principal regarding processes for requesting a medical exemption.

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

In some circumstances, teachers may give permission for students to use their mobile phone in the classroom, for learning purposes.

In this instance, teachers will help you to unlock your phone pouch for the agreed purpose, then at the conclusion of the activity, teachers will direct you to relock your phone pouch.

## I forgot my lunch, how will I contact my parents?

You will not be able to contact your parents using your phone during school hours.

However, you can contact your parents through existing school processes, such as phoning them from the school office.

## How will I contact my parents in the event of an emergency?

You will not be able to contact your parents using your phone during school hours.

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

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 making contact with parents and carers.

## I have a part-time job, how will my employer contact me?

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.

It is important that you notify your employer that you 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.

## Will I be able to use my 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 I use my phone while I'm on an excursion?

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.

## Who is responsible for my phone during the day?

If you choose to bring a phone to school, you will be responsible for the mobile phone during the school 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. This pouch will be kept with you 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 should write their name on their pouch when they receive it and then are responsible for the safety of the phone and pouch.

At the start of every day, students will place their phone in their pouch and lock it before school begins. At the end of each day, students will unlock their pouch as they leave the school grounds.