



MAROOCHYDORE
STATE HIGH SCHOOL

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STRIVE AND SERVE

Mobile Phones and Wearable Devices Policy



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Important to note

- For the purpose of this policy, *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 policy does not apply to personal or school-owned devices, such as laptops, that are approved for educational use as part of the school's Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy.

Away for the day - Mobile phones and wearable devices

All 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.

Overview

Maroochydore State High School is 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
- 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 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 may only use their mobile phone or have wearable device notifications enabled during these times if they are participating in a teacher-led educational activity that is approved by the principal, or have an approved exemption for medical, disability and/or wellbeing reasons.

Students participating in 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.

Canteen Payments

The use of mobile phones and wearable devices are not to be utilised for payments at the school canteen. Payments can be made at the canteen through the use of a debit card, cash or by pre-ordering through the Qkr! App prior to arrival on the school grounds.

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, and
- make contact with parents, friends and part-time employers outside of the school day.

Storage of mobile phones and wearable devices

The off and 'away for the day' expectation will commence when students arrive on the school grounds for the start of the school day and finish at the end of the school day. 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.

Students are required to store their mobile phones in their locker after arriving at school until second break, when the device can then be stored in their school bag until the end of the school day. Mobile phone devices are not to be stored on their person, in pockets, pencil cases, laptop bags etc during the school day.

Devices that are stored at school, are at the students own risk. MSHS does not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to student personal devices.

Principal-approved exemptions

Students with an approved exemption from the principal, must only use their mobile phone or wearable device for the intended, approved purpose. MSHS does not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to student personal devices.

Individual circumstances

Consideration of individual circumstances will be given to students who require temporary or ongoing exemptions, including where:

- the mobile phone or wearable device is used by the student to monitor or manage a medical condition
- 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
- students in Years 11 and 12 are applying for Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (AARA) for assistive technology.

The principal will consider requests for exemption received from students or parents on a case-by-case basis. When considering an exemption request, the principal may seek additional information/documentation to support the need for the student to access their mobile phone or wearable device during the school day. Students will be provided with a slip showing approved exemption.

School specific exemptions

It is acknowledged that the use of mobile phones and wearable devices can support teaching and learning programs by providing valuable learning experiences for students, as well as supporting day-to-day school operations. The principal may provide permission for students to use their mobile phone or wearable device in the classroom, for a specific and agreed educational purpose. The supervising teacher will ensure that students only use their mobile phone or wearable device for the intended and agreed purpose and will ensure that the principal-approved poster is displayed during the activity.

Misuse of mobile phones and wearable devices

Misuse in relation to devices will result in students handing their mobile phone or wearable device temporarily to the student counter, where it may be collected at the end of the school day. Continued and repeated misuse may result in other strategies that involve parent engagement and support, student support strategies and if required, enforcement of the Student Code of Conduct.

Consequences for misuse of mobile phones and wearable devices

1 st Offence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Device sent to the student counter and student counter records confiscation. • Student provided with electronic device confiscation slip to take back to show the teacher. This slip allows the student to return at the end of the day to collect the device from the student counter.
2 nd Offence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Device sent to the student counter and student counter records confiscation. • Student provided with electronic device confiscation slip to take back to show the teacher. This slip allows the student to return at the end of the day to collect the device from the student counter. • Student counter to send text home identifying that the student has had a second confiscation (warning that 3rd offence will require parent to organise collection).
3 rd Offence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Device sent to the student counter and student counter records confiscation. • Student provided with electronic device confiscation slip to take back to show the teacher. • Student Counter notifies DOS of 3rd offence. • DOS to contact parent/carer to inform of third offence and to organise collection of the device (warning that 4th offence will have consequences applied by the principal). • DOS completes One School entry. • DOS arranges ELO with student to discuss device policy.
4 th Offence or Further repeated offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Device sent to the student counter and student counter records confiscation. • Student provided with electronic device confiscation slip to take back to show the teacher. • Student Counter notifies DOS of 4th offence. • DOS to contact parent/carer to inform of fourth offence and to organise for parent/carer to collect the device. The student is not able to collect the device themselves. • DOS completes One School entry. • Consequences will be applied, in consultation with the principal.
Refusal to follow instruction to hand in device	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher enters incident on One School as IT Misconduct with referral to the relevant HOD (in class) or DOS (outside of class). • Refusal to hand in the phone/device will result in a consequence for failure to follow a reasonable instruction and will be dealt with through the Student Code of Conduct.

Each term, the student counter will monitor and keep track of the number of offences. Previous incidents of misuse do not carry over into the new term.

At the beginning of each term, all students are provided the opportunity to reset and follow the mobile phone policy in order to maximise their learning opportunities.

Legislation

- Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 (Qld)
- Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017 (Qld)
- Human Rights Act Qld (2019)

Delegations / Authorisations

- Nil

Other resources

- Customer complaints management procedure
- Cybersafety and reputation management
- Inclusive education policy
- Managing students' health support needs at school procedure
- Managing risks in school curriculum activities procedure
- Student discipline procedure
- Temporary removal of student property by school staff procedure
- Use of ICT systems procedure
- Use of mobile devices procedure



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