

Use of mobile phones and other devices by students

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

All students are required to ensure their device is 'Away for the day' and wearable devices are switched to flight mode. The aims of this policy are 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' inside school grounds, at any time. 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 have an approved exemption from the Principal for documented (from an outside medical practitioner/ specialist) 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.

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 whilst **outside of school grounds and outside of the school day**, and
- be contacted about a person under their care (supporting documentation required as part of the exemption process)

Please note this is at the student's own risk and the school takes no responsibility for the loss or damage of a personal device.

Storage of mobile phones

The expectation for storage of mobile phones at Ormeau Woods State High School is that students should keep their phone:

- in their school bag

Exemptions

Students that have individual circumstances that dictate they must have access to their phone or device are required to apply for an exemption to this policy by emailing the school Principal (principal@ormeauwoodsshs.eq.edu.au) with supporting medical documentation.

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 will 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, eg..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.

Mobile Phone Policy – Away for the Day

Ormeau Woods State High School



Breach of Policy

Any student found to be breaching the Ormeau Woods State High School Student Code of Conduct in relation to the use of mobile devices will be dealt with utilising the following processes:

