



CHANCELLOR STATE COLLEGE

Student use of mobile devices

'Away for the Day' Policy

All Queensland 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.

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' will support our school to maintain a strong focus on educational achievement, and student wellbeing and engagement by providing optimal learning and teaching environments and encouraging increased positive face-to-face social interactions between students. Promoting the health and wellbeing of students through increased social interaction and physical activity is a shared goal of our community. This policy also aims to address and reduce the potential for students to be exposed to the negative impacts of the digital world, resulting from unsafe or inappropriate technology use.

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. Mobile devices and other technology that are brought to school are the responsibility of the student. The college does not accept responsibility for loss or theft of such items.

'Away for the Day' storage

Every morning students will be required to turn off their phone and put it in the college provided lockable pouch.

- The college provides each student with a lockable phone pouch in which they store their mobile device/s throughout the school day.
- Students will be able to unlock their pouches when exiting the school grounds at the end of the school day/signing out.
- Damaged pouches will need to be replaced at the parent/carer's expense, unless it is a warranty issue.

Contacting your child at school

Parents and carers will be able to contact their child during school hours by the school's existing communication channels. Secondary Campus phone number: (07) 5453 3222.

- **Students requiring parent/carer contact:** Please note that a student wishing to call a parent will not be grounds for unlocking the pouch. Students who need to contact parents or carers during the school day, must approach First Aid during a break and ask for staff to contact their parent/carer on their behalf.
- **Parents requiring early student pick-up:** During school hours, parents and carers are expected to only contact their children via the school's phone contact. Should a student need to be collected during the day, this should occur at a break and where possible be pre-arranged with the student and by contacting the school to note the break.

Students are to be signed out via First Aid at the allocated break. If an un-scheduled collection is required, parents/carers should contact the school and the student will be called by First Aid.

Payments at the canteen

For purchases at the Canteen, students will not be able to use their phone and will be required to use a card or cash, or purchase items via the Qkr app on our website. <https://chancellorsc.eq.edu.au/facilities/canteen>

Exemptions

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 as an agreed reasonable adjustment for a student with disability or learning difficulties.
- 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.
- 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, e.g. students who are primary carers for a child or family member.
- students in Years 11 and 12 are applying for Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (AARA) for assistive technology.

Deputy Principals will consider requests for exemption received from students or parents on a case-by-case basis. When considering an exemption request, additional information will need to be provided to support the need for the student to access their mobile phone or wearable device during the school day. Approved exemptions will be documented in the student's OneSchool Support Provisions tab and a pass will be issued that students will need to be able to present on request.

When a phone is sighted by staff

Unless granted a prior exemption, any student seen by staff with an unpouched mobile will be directed to hand it in to the First Aid room staff.



A receipt will be provided showing the phone has been handed in, and the student will return to class. If at a lunchbreak, the student will need to locate the teacher at an arranged time or place.



If a first infringement, the student may collect their phone after school and a generic no-reply email will be sent to parents notifying them of this event.
A second infringement in the calendar year will result in a Deputy Principal contacting parents and arranging collection with a caregiver.

Consequences for Inappropriate Use

If a student does not comply with the school policy, the Principal or other delegated staff may impose the following actions and/or consequences:

- Temporary removal of student property (the device) as per school policy. The device may be returned to the student or alternatively directly to the parent.
- Withdrawing the permission to bring a phone or other electronic device to school.
- Detentions.
- Preventing the student from attending or participating in, any school activity that, in the reasonable opinion of the Principal or delegate, is not part of the essential educational program of the school.
- Suspension or Exclusion.
- Where there is suspected illegal activity or conduct, the College may notify the Queensland Police Service and the Cybersafety Ombudsman.

Further Information

For further departmental information about this policy visit <https://education.qld.gov.au/parents-and-carers/school-information/life-at-school/mobile-phones>