

# Mobile Phone Policy (Version 24.1 – 22 January 2024)

From Term 1, 2024 all student mobile phones and wearable devices such as smart watches will need to be 'away for the day' including during break times – [POLICY LINK](#). The clear and consistent focus of Cairns State High School is on quality teaching/learning, wellbeing, attainment/achievement and internationalism. Mobile phones for the purposes of this document include portable music players, smart watches and air buds/earphones. To assist, Parent / Carer resources are available [online](#).

## Hours of learning

- **The no mobile phone period extends from entry into and exit from the school grounds every day. This applies to ALL Year Levels at anytime, everyday. There is a designated exclusion zone for mobile phones 3 metres from the entrance / exit of school grounds.**
- Students have every right to use a phone out of school while its supervision is the responsibility of the parent and responsible use is the expectation they place on their child.
- Students are permitted use mobile phones on the journey to and from school and encouraged to use them responsibly.
- Students who bring a phone to school are required to switch it off and either hand it in at Student Services for safe keeping to be collected at the end of the day, or store it in their school bag (not pocket).
- Certain curriculum activities may permit the use of a mobile phone as per the direction of the teacher. This will be communicated to students and families in advance, as approved by Executive.
- R Block will NOT be an accessible space at lunchtimes for Senior Students from 2024. The Senior Memorial (for Year 12) will also be a mobile phone free zone.

## Classroom Routines

- All students will be required to ensure that their mobile phone is off and in their bag at the start of the school day. Students are expected to dedicate their attention to the learning tasks and will not be able to 'check' their phones at all during the school day.

## Consequences

- Students breaching this policy are subject to the following:
  - First occurrence: The device is confiscated and held at main reception until a parent/ carer can collect the child's mobile phone.
  - Detentions/community service may be applicable.
  - Subsequent occurrences will be considered serious breaches of the Code of Conduct for students. The device will be confiscated and collected by the parent / carer. Additional consequences are detailed in the Code of Conduct for students and take the individual circumstances of the student, their behaviour record and other issues into account.
  - Confiscation of student property is allowable as per the Education (General Provisions) Regulations 2017 - [LINK](#)

## Loss and damage

- The school does not accept any responsibility for lost, damaged or stolen items including mobile phones.
- Because of this, families are encouraged to not permit mobile phones to be brought to school.

## Inappropriate use of mobile phones outside this policy

- The school cannot accept responsibility for the inappropriate use of mobile phones outside this policy.
- Resources will be made available to parent/carers and students should they encounter issues with mobile phones while being used under parent supervision.

## Parent communication

- Messaging: Parents are requested to support the policy by not sending messages by mobile phone during the school day during the no phone period. Messages can be sent outside these times. Family arrangements are best made before or after school. For non-urgent changes, parents/carers may elect to send their child an email to the school email account.
- Emergency: The school will communicate via text message to parent/carers should there be an emergency requiring evacuation or lock down. Parent /carers will be communicated with should a student require serious medical attention. Parents/carers contact student services in the case of an emergency requiring a student to be notified.

## Individual exemptions

Individual students with documented and verified needs will work with the relevant Deputy Principal, the Head of the Centre for Diverse Learners or the Guidance Officer to consider the specific needs of the individual student, develop and enact a plan.