

## Use of personal mobile devices by students

All Queensland schools are required to develop school specific procedures for the implementation of the 'use of personal mobile devices by students.

### Rationale:

- Queensland Government "phones away for day" mandate
- To support students to develop safe, responsible and respectful personal mobile device practices;
- To reduce the impact that inappropriate personal mobile device usage has on class learning, the development of resilience as well as administration and teaching time; and
- To support students to manage the relationship with technology and develop long term healthy lifestyles habits, including developing the capacity to engage in developmentally appropriate and healthy activities during school lunch breaks that do not involve technology.

### Preamble:

While we allow personal mobile devices to be brought to the school, research has found they are detrimental to effective learning and teaching if used inappropriately during lesson time or at break times. At Tully State High School, a personal mobile device is considered to be:

- mobile phones
- wearable technology or sensing devices (i.e., earphones/cords/air buds, smartwatches)

### Student Responsibilities

The responsibilities for students using personal mobile devices at school or during school activities, are outlined below.

- Students are encouraged to leave personal mobile devices at home.
- Students may use mobile phones/smart watches and/or electronic listening devices before and after school (before 8:45am and after 2:45pm).
- At all other times, these devices must be turned off (not on silent/vibration), out of sight (includes earphones/cords/air buds) and kept safely in your pocket or bag, phones are away for the day.
- Students are responsible for the security, integrity, insurance and maintenance of their personal mobile devices.
- Students who bring a personal mobile device to school do so at their own risk and are responsible for its safe keeping. The school will not investigate theft, loss or damage of any personal mobile device brought to school.
- Be courteous, considerate and respectful of others when using a personal device.
- Students are able to use their personal mobile device to pay for tuckshop.
- For parent-student contact during the day, students with phones can only check missed calls/messages before and after the school day (Before 8:45am and after 2:45pm). **For emergency contact, parents must call the school office.**
- Principal (or their delegate), may approve an exemption. This allows the student to use their personal mobile device during school hours for specific purposes including for medical, disability and/or wellbeing reasons.

### Students in Years 10, 11 & 12:

May use a personal mobile device in learning, for a specific task, for a specific time under staff supervision at the explicit direction of a staff member. The personal mobile device is not to be accessed for recreational use (Examples include and not limited to music, social media, videos).

### Consequences for Misuse of personal mobile device:

- If a student misuses the device, the student will be sent to the office where the device will be handed in and a slip will be issued. This slip is shown to the staff member as evidence for handing the phone in to the

office. Parent/Guardian must organise to collect the student personal mobile device from the office at the earliest possible time.

- If a student refuses to hand the personal mobile device to the office, the student will be referred to the Head of Department Student Services (Junior School, Middle School, Senior School) for follow up.
- Breaches of the law may be referred to the police.

It is **unacceptable** for students while at Tully State High School to:

- use a personal mobile device in an unlawful manner
- use a personal mobile device to take photos of others without permission
- download, distribute or publish explicit, offensive messages or pictures
- use obscene, inflammatory, racist, discriminatory or derogatory language
- use language and/or threats of violence that may amount to bullying and/or harassment, or stalking
- insult, harass or attack others or use obscene or abusive language
- use in-phone cameras anywhere a normal camera would be considered inappropriate, such as in change rooms or toilets
- invade someone's privacy by recording personal conversations or daily activities and/or the further distribution (e.g. forwarding, texting, uploading, Bluetooth use etc.) of such material
- use a personal mobile device (including those with Bluetooth functionality) to cheat during exams or assessments
- take into or use personal mobile devices at exams or during class assessment unless expressly permitted by school staff

### Parent Responsibilities

- Be aware that:
  - Students who use personal mobile devices in a manner that is not appropriate may be subject to disciplinary action by the school.
  - Teachers will always exercise their duty of care, but avoiding or reducing access to harmful information also requires responsible use by the student.
- Support the policy by sending messages/calling to mobile phones outside of school hours (before 8:45am and after 2:45pm).
- Contact the school office in the case of an emergency requiring a student to be notified (4068 4555).
- Collect their child's personal mobile device as soon as possible after they have been notified the property is available for collection.
- Respect the '*phone away for the day*' policy and refrain from handing the personal mobile device back to the student during school hours.

### Staff responsibilities

- Model the appropriate use of personal mobile devices at school.
- Use personal mobile devices to fulfil their duties (e.g., notify emergency services, report safety issues to administration, One School technology violation).

### Resources

- Student use of mobile phone procedure – Education Department
- e-safety commissioner - <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>
- Advice for parents/carers - <https://raisingchildren.net.au/teens/entertainment-technology>
- Bullying No Way! - <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/>
- Kids Helpline - <https://kidshelpline.com.au/teens/issues/bullying>