



Mobile Phone and Wearable Devices Policy 'Away for the Day'

Throughout Education Queensland schools, there are guidelines for the use of mobile phones at school. At Merrimac State School we have used these guidelines as the basis of this policy and have taken into consideration the age of children at Primary School.

MOBILE PHONE AND WEARABLE DEVICES POLICY

Our stance on the possession of mobile phones and wearable devices at school is underpinned by the following considerations:

- Mobile phones and wearable devices are very expensive and highly attractive devices and therefore at risk of being stolen or used inappropriately at school.
- Use of mobile phones and wearable devices by children can be disruptive to teaching, learning and school activities in and out of the classroom.
- Mobile phones and wearable devices use cellular data meaning that students can access the web without being monitored through the school filter network.

As a result, mobile phones and wearable devices are not allowed in classrooms or the playground.

However, our school accepts that student access to, and use of, mobile phones and wearable devices is increasing and that, on occasions mobiles may need to be brought to school. Therefore, outlined below is our expectations and procedures for mobile phones and wearable devices on the school grounds.

Procedures

The following procedures **must** be followed when bringing a mobile phone or wearable devices to school:

- 1) If families need their child to bring a mobile phone to school it must be turned off and signed into the school office at the beginning of the day, prior to the first bell
- 2) Phones will be stored safely, at the office in the Administration Building, for the duration of the school day
- 3) Students can collect their phone before they leave school, to return home
- 4) Wearable devices, such as smart watches, must be switched off so that phone calls, messages and other notification cannot be sent or received during school hours.
- 5) This procedure also applies to student attendance at school activities, such as representative school sport, eisteddfods excursions and camps.

- ❖ It is understood that parents may have a genuine need to make urgent contact with their children. For this reason, the office phone is attended during school hours. Phone messages for student will always be relayed to the relevant student, provided the school has been contacted before 2.30pm and in emergency situations where possible. Furthermore, office staff will contact parents when children are sick or injured or other urgent situations arise.
- ❖ In the event that students have a mobile phone in their possession, during class time or in the playground, they will be referred to the leadership team who will place the phone in security for the remainder of the day.

Normal school disciplinary consequences apply to breaches of these guidelines.

NO RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE TAKEN BY THE SCHOOL SHOULD LOSS, DAMAGE OR THEFT OF MOBILE PHONES AND WEARABLE DEVICES OCCUR.

Additional Details

- This policy also applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.
- It is recommended by the Department of Education that disciplinary action is to be taken against any student who photographs or films other individuals without their consent or who sends harassing or threatening messages.

Revised 14th November 2023