



Marsden STATE HIGH SCHOOL

● Persistence ● Passion ● Pride

MOBILE PHONE USE AT MARSDEN STATE HIGH SCHOOL

In order to maximise safety and learning opportunities for all students' mobile phones are to be switched off and placed in a mobile phone pouch upon their arrival to school, until 2.30pm. The 'Away for the Day' mobile phone policy at Marsden State High School is designed to foster a community feeling and belonging among students while promoting optimal learning environments, face-to-face interactions, and the health and wellbeing of students. This policy is designed to strike a balance between the benefits of technology and the need for focused, face-to-face engagement in our school community. This policy is in line with the Queensland government mandate and the recommendations of Ms Cheryl Vardon AO, former Queensland Family and Children's Commissioner.

The intention of a Mobile phone Policy is providing a safe and supportive teaching and learning environment by:

- Optimal Learning Environments:** 'Away for the Day' supports our school's commitment to maintaining optimal learning and teaching environments.
- Face-to-Face Interactions:** By limiting mobile phone use, we encourage increased face-to-face social interactions between students.
- Physical Activity:** The policy aims to promote the health and wellbeing of students through increased social interaction and physical activity.
- Digital World Impact:** 'Away for the Day' reduces the potential negative impacts of the digital world resulting from unsafe or inappropriate technology use.

If a student decides to bring their mobile phone to school it is their responsibility to look after and keep secure.

EXPECTATIONS

Switch Off and Away:

From the beginning of Term 1, 2024, all students are required to keep their mobile phones switched off and 'away for the day' placed in their mobile phone pouch during school hours, including break times.

Wearable Devices:

Wearable devices, such as smartwatches, can be worn to school, but notifications must be switched off during school hours to prevent sending or receiving calls, messages, or other notifications.

Communication Methods:

Parents are encouraged to use the school's preferred communication method, such as phoning the school office, to contact their child during the day. For students who wish to contact employers during the school day or vice versa, the school is willing to generate an official letter upon request indicating that students will not be contactable except through the front office.

Support at Home:

Parents play a crucial role in supporting the 'Away for the Day' approach by establishing routines at home to help their child balance device use and screen time.



IMPLEMENTATION

School Procedures:

1. Mobile phones are to be switched off and away when students enter school the grounds. 'School Grounds' extends to school excursions, incursions, sporting events and other events at the school or off site where an approved activity take place, unless otherwise advised by the school. This advice will be on the event permission form.
2. Each new student in 2025 will be issued with a Mobile Phone pouch. A replacement pouch is available to be purchased if the student loses it.
3. Each student will maintain possession of their mobile phone inside their Pouch for the duration of the school day where the phones remain locked. Students arriving late will go through the same process.
4. Mobile Phones can be unlocked from the Mobile Phone Pouch when the student leaves school grounds. Unlocking stations will be readily available for students use at entry and exit points.
5. Parents / caregivers of students who require access to their mobile phone throughout the school day for medical reasons will be required to apply for an exemption through the Principal.
6. Students are not able to access their phones to conduct mobile payments at the canteen or office. Cash or cards must be used.
7. Headphones, earbuds or other connected devices (such as watches or speakers) cannot be used while at school.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Daily Process:

As students arrive at school, they will:

1. Turn their mobile phone off.
2. Open their Mobile Phone Pouch by tapping against the Unlocking Base.
3. Place their mobile phone in their bag or inside the Pouch and secure it away for the day by locking it.

At the end of the day, students will unlock their pouch, open their pouch and remove their phone, close their pouch and put it in their school bag.

Damage to / loss of pouch:

Students who damage their pouch will be given a new pouch and have the cost of the pouch added to their school fees.

Forgotten Pouch:

If a student forgets their Pouch and they choose to bring their mobile phone to school it will be collected and stored at student foyer or the Students Service HUB. Support staff will call home to remind the parent / carer of the policy. The student can collect the phone once being dismissed from school.

Parent / Guardian Expectations

1. Contact the school office to pass on a message to their children in the event of an emergency
2. Work collaboratively with the school to reinforce the mobile phone policy with their children.

NON-COMPLIANCE

Consequences for breaches of the mobile phone policy

The following may occur if a student is not appropriately following the 'Away for the day' rule:

1st Infringement: Confiscate and Collect will occur if a mobile phone is not off and away for the day or the mobile phone pouch is vandalised. Parent will be contacted via text message. Students can collect mobile phone at the end of the day. Mobile Phone Infringement #1 documented on OneSchool. This also includes headphones/airpods.

2nd Infringement: Confiscate and Collect will occur. A referral will be sent to the relevant Year Level Head of Department and student will be issued with a detention (lunchtime, before or after school). Parent will be contacted via text and phone call. Parents will be required to collect the mobile phone from the student foyer, when they are next available to do so after the completion of the school day. Mobile Phone Infringement #2 documented on OneSchool. Mobile phones can be collected during office hours are Monday – Thursday 8.00am – 4.00pm and Friday 8.00am – 3.30pm. This also includes headphones/airpods.

3rd Infringement: Confiscate and Collect will occur. A referral will be sent to Year Level HOD. Parent will be contacted via phone call. Student may be issued with further consequences which may include suspension. Mobile Phone Infringement #3 documented on OneSchool. This also includes headphones/airpods.

Any students that refuse to hand over their mobile phone/headphones will be issued a Planning Room referral and referred to a Head of Department.

Inappropriate behaviour outside of school hours

Students may receive disciplinary consequences for bullying or cyber-bullying or other inappropriate online behavior that occurs out of school hours, and affects the good order and management of the school. The Marsden State High School community is very proud of its high expectations and we encourage parents/carers to support the school by upholding our Mobile Phone Policy directed by the Queensland Government.

EXEMPTIONS

Consideration of individual circumstances will be given to students who require temporary or ongoing exemptions for the use of mobile phones. Students with an approved exemption must only use their mobile phone or wearable device for the intended, approved purpose. Students wishing to apply for individual exemptions must complete the mobile phone exemption request form. Principals will consider requests for exemption received from students or parents on a case-by-case basis. When considering an exemption request, principals may seek additional information to support the need for the student to access their mobile phone or wearable device during the school day.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS

For students

- Respect and follow school rules and procedures and the decisions made by staff, knowing that other schools may have different procedures and rules.
- Communicate respectfully and collaboratively with peers, school staff and the school community and behave in the ways described in the Student Code for Students.
- Should a student need to make a call to parents or guardians during the school day, they must attend student foyer during break times to request a staff member make the phone call.

For parents and carers

- Recognise the role they play in educating their children and modelling the behaviour that is safe, responsible and respectful use of digital devices and online services.
- Support implementation of this policy, including its approach to resolving issues.
- Communicate with school staff and the school community respectfully and collaboratively.
- Switch off or put their digital devices on silent when at official school functions, during meetings and when assisting in the classroom.
- Provide digital devices that meet school specifications where a school is participating in a bring your own device program and complete any related paperwork.
- During school hours, parents and carers are expected to only contact their children via the school administration office. If you need to attend the school to collect your student, we will send for them to meet you at the school administration office. Parents and carers can access this policy on the school website or in hard copy form at the school administration office.

FUTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be found on the following websites:

<https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/98137>

<https://education.qld.gov.au/parents-and-carers/school-information/life-at-school/mobile-phones>

Complaints

If a student, parent or career has a complaint under this procedure, they should first follow the school's complaint process. If the issue cannot be resolved, please refer to the Department's guide for students/ parents/ carers about making a complaint about our schools.